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A CRUISE

IN

JAPANESE WATERS

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BY

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A CRUISE IN JAPANESE WATERS.

CHAPTER I.

We left the north of China, and sailed from the important city of Tientsin, bearing the cheering intelligence to Shanghai of a treaty of peace having been concluded between the Empires of Great Britain and China, and of the advent of a great era in the history of the latter nation. Henceforth, thanks to allied arms and allied diplomacy, China was open to the enterprise of the missionary, traveller, or merchant, and the ships of England might not only visit her seaboard and enter her harbours, but were at liberty to penetrate to her farthest borders, by means of that noble stream, the Yang-tsi-Keang, which flows by and through her richest, and hitherto most secluded, provinces. Many other valuable concessions were made; but the above-mentioned were those most fraught with change to the "Central Land," and with promise to British interests, commerce, and policy.

A thorough appreciation of the present unhealthy condition of the European mercantile intellect located at the "Five Ports" in China, carried us through the anticipated ordeal of being told by the majority of our belligerent merchants, that we had not slaughtered half enough Chinamen, and enabled us to smile at captiousness, that seemed to think nothing was gained so long as they had to pay taxes or dues to contemptible mandarins! Happily, people at home would think more wisely and more disinterestedly upon the subject, and England would rejoice that so much good had been wrought with so little violence, and that our arms, though they had punished severely, were free from the charge of injustice and robbery. All in Europe, who had ever known or read of China, would appreciate the humiliation that the proud and exclusive Court of Pekin must have endured, when it yielded the points which have already been made public through the medium of the press. Therefore, Anglo-Chinese opinions did not press heavily upon our spirits —but the heat did! What a constant exercise of ingenuity it is to procure a draught of fresh air—or, more correctly speaking, a draught of air only—during the July heat of a Shanghai summer! There is nothing fresh or pure at that unhappy period; all Nature stinks aloud; and any one gifted with acute olfactory nerves in Shanghai, must necessarily suffer from nose-ache, until all sense of smell is lost, or thoroughly blunted. Unsavouriness and close-steaming heat apart, Shanghai is replete with interest. Situated

in a rich and highly-cultivated plain, near the mouth of the "Son of the Ocean," as the Chinese figuratively style the Yang-tsi-Keang, and on the eastern seaboard of the great valley which stretches north to Pekin, and west to the mountains of Sychuen, closely connected with most of the important cities of this empire by means of a wonderful ramification of canals, Shanghai is, in fact, the Liverpool of China, and likely still more to rise in commercial importance as the results of the Treaty of Tientsin develop themselves.

It was on Saturday the 18th June 1842 that the boats of the British fleet opened the port of Shanghai to the ken of the world; and to-day, sixteen short years afterwards, the value of the European and American exports and imports amounts to no less than *twenty-six millions of dollars* per annum, or, at the present rate of exchange, *six millions sterling*, of which the lion's share goes to or comes from Great Britain and her colonies. These figures give some idea of the progress of commerce in a city, even in this slow-moving country; but the scene of bustle Shanghai offers is still more striking. At this moment eighty odd sail of splendid clippers, fleet-footed racers of the deep sea, from London, Liverpool, Aberdeen, and New York, are riding at anchor off the quays; flags and pennons, as varied in colour as their owners and consignees are numerous, flaunt gaily in the fervid zephyrs that waft anything but ambrosial smells from the fields and gardens of a people who are far too practical to care for the filthy means whereby their vegetables are

brought to market in such marvellous perfection. We know that directly the monetary crisis in Europe has ceased to react upon the firms established here, and that the new crop of teas shall have arrived from the tea-growing districts, every wharf which projects into the river will be inaccessible for the throng of lighters pressing around them, and that crowds of sweltering coolies or porters will wail over their burdens, ever repeating their melancholy cry of "Ah-ho! ah-ho-ho!" Allah be praised that that busy scene has not yet commenced, for then our only hours of rest, from four o'clock until seven o'clock in the morning, would be broken, and heat, stench, musquitoes, combined with coolies, might drive us to desperation, and to take a passage home in the first Peninsular and Oriental mail-boat, and thus mar our anticipated visit to Japan. The lull in European commerce does not appear to have checked Chinese activity wherever money-making is to be done; and although, in their jargon, Messrs Smith, Brown, and Robinson "have makee broke!" or "that new chop tea no catchee yet, by-and-by can do," yet that in no way affected the Chinaman's line of business. In the city, about the river-side, and in narrow pestiferous streets, there is a clang and din of commerce. Oily, strong-smelling men rush past you carrying loads of sugar or fusty bags of rice; here piles of rattans impede the way, or bundles of dye-woods rattle about your shins; and then all the conglomeration of foul smells is suddenly mastered by tubs of some abomination brought from the Eastern Isles to tickle the

palates of the sons of the Flowery Land! Put on a pith hat, spread a thick cotton umbrella, take advantage of every streak of shade thrown by tree or wall, and let us watch the entrance of the Soo-chow-foo Canal. Numbers of boats are passing and repassing; some carry native merchants or brokers, who have been doing, or are going to do, business in Shanghai. In spite of the unpretending appearance of their comfortable boats, tens of thousands, in dollars, are the figures in which their inmates carry on their mercantile transactions. Smooth, silver-tongued Asiatics as they are —adepts at lying, chicanery, and duplicity—they are *commercially* honest nevertheless. Good faith in mercantile transactions they have found to be advantageous; and, being an eminently practical race, they adopt the advantageous virtue, and as a rule (not without exception) they practise it. But the same man who will, to the uttermost farthing, account to his brother-merchant for thousands, or assist him in a commercial crisis, will unblushingly defraud his government by the grossest perjury, and subscribe remorselessly to a fund for procuring the heads of foreigners, or for destroying a European community with arsenic—Howqua and Canton to wit. Besides these boats full of passengers, there are barges carrying the greatest amount of goods, and drawing the smallest conceivable amount of water, and some months hence they will reach the remotest points of the empire with their precious freight of tropical or European produce. Such is the scene on the Soochow Canal. Now look up the

river, above the fleet of clippers, steam-boats, and men-of-war, at that forest of masts like a mass of pine-trees stripped of branch and leaf; they are the native vessels of Shanghai. Only the pool below London Bridge can offer a similar sight. This season, certainly, these vessels are unusually numerous here. Fear of the allies, and the exaggerated reports of the "fierceness of the uncontrollable barbarians" commanding her Britannic Majesty's gunboats, have induced their owners to remain in port until peace was declared. Our news has evidently reached them, and the clang of gongs, much discordant music, and the noise of crackers, during the early watches of the past night, are demonstrations of John Chinaman's delight. He has the prospect of again being able to push into the outer waters, under the slender protection of the smooth-faced Queen of Heaven, who, in her smoky little shrine under the junk's poop, smiles approvingly on the poor junk-seaman's offering of a cup of weak tea, and a candle of pork fat painted bright vermilion. All day, and all night long, according as the tide serves, these industrious fellows are moving up or down the stream, ever heaving in cables, or hoisting and lowering their quaint-cut sails. Hardy must they be, as well as industrious; they seem to have but one suit of clothes, and only a mat to sleep upon; their food is simply rice, and salt-fish enough to swear by, and their pay is very small; yet they face the tempests of a sea which is full of danger to our well-found barks and expert seamen. And then, after a long and toilsome voyage,

the junk-sailor often endures sad cruelties from pirates, whose ships are ever prowling about in the neighbourhood of the centres of commerce. Still, in spite of typhoons and pirates, and the competition of European vessels that already have entered the field against them in the coasting trade, the native craft have apparently in no wise diminished in number; and it is probable, indeed, that more junks sail to and from Shanghai at the present day than prior to the opening of the port to European commerce. I may add that the "bund" or quay which forms the river-face of the European quarter, together with the magnificent abodes of the merchants, and the no less imposing consulates, convey an idea of the wealth and prosperity of the community, which is fully supported by their establishments, yachts, horses, and mode of living. Even the ministers of the Protestant churches, judging by their dwellings, partake of the general wellbeing of Shanghai. Rectors at home on £600 per annum live not in such houses; and poor curates in England, desirous of enjoying conjugal life, and bearing light to the benighted heathen, may, by enduring a considerable amount of heat and many smells, do far better in China (in a temporal point of view at least) than by slaving in the fever-haunted homes of the poor of an English city. The missionary in China may not expect, like the merchant, to make a rapid fortune and retire, but nevertheless it is a fine field for active sons of the Church. There is for them the prospect of promotion to vacant Eastern bishoprics; or, if gifted with more

questionable zeal for the interests of their country and their religion, they may become political agents or Government interpreters.

He who at the latter part of July, at Shanghai, found anything to admire or write of, might boast of some energy and good health. Personal comfort was then entirely hopeless. The temperature for a week ranged from 86° to 98° Fahrenheit, and on deck, in the shade of our awnings, often stood at 104°. Sunstroke was frequent. Even the Chinese labourers, employed in coaling the ship, were more than once struck down; the men-of-war lost one or more men by this awful and sudden death; and as late in the afternoon as 4 P.M., a European policeman was killed by *coup-de-soleil*, through incautiously exposing himself on the bund. Every one on shore or on board found a perfect state of mental and bodily quietude actually necessary for the preservation of health; and we thought with a sigh of our brethren and kindred who, in as high a temperature, and almost as insupportable a climate—that of Oude or Rohilcund—were labouring for their country's honour in spite of sunstroke and disease.

At this season all the residents of Shanghai look painfully unhealthy, sallow, and listless. Those afloat, and not acclimatised, suffer much from boils, rush, whitlows, and similar ailments, by which strong constitutions seek relief when tried by great heats and pestiferous exhalations.

It is true that the mercantile community, feeding

and living in an artificial state, cooled by punkahs, and supported by the consolation that in three or four years' time they would return to Europe or America with fortunes, may be able, with Spartan fortitude, to smile at their sufferings ; we were otherwise situated, and can safely aver, after more than twenty years' wandering through one portion of the tropics or another, varying their heat occasionally with extremes of cold equally objectionable, that a hot calm off the Bonny River in Africa, or the most sultry day Port-Royal or Saugor Island can produce, is Eden itself when compared with the foul stew called a hot day in Shanghai.

We acknowledge that, for seven months—ay, and if you please, eight months—the climate of Shanghai is delicious ; the ice, the mutton, and the game, all are unexceptionable ; but heaven preserve us from a third time visiting it in the dog-days of a Chinese summer !

Even the arrival of the English mail hardly served to rouse us from our lethargic discontent. Canton had become a horrid nightmare, and we were supremely indifferent as to the squabbles of Governor Bowring of Hong-Kong, and Mr Commissioner Hwang, Governor-General of the Quang-tung and Quang-si provinces. We could only listlessly glance over the terrible edicts they had each fulminated against the other. It was too much that hot day to attempt to read the tremendous despatches of an Indian General, who, with five hundred sailors, soldiers, sepoys, and irregulars, had fought some twenty pitched battles with a numer-

ous and desperate foe, whose flanks he enveloped, whose rear he threatened, whose columns he crushed, whose centre he pierced, whose line he enfiladed, rolled up, and came down upon perpendicularly! But we could read and re-read Sir Colin Campbell's clear and soldier-like reports, and hoped that, after all, the real fight was where the gallant Highlander led.

Shortly after the mail arrived, certain intelligence reached Shanghai from the north of China, that the Court of Pekin, acting in perfect good faith, and in fulfilment of its contract, had already despatched two high officers to Shanghai to arrange the terms of the future transit duties, and to revise the present tariff of taxes on foreign imports and exports. These functionaries could not arrive for some weeks; and, in the mean time, a good opportunity offered for the British Ambassador to proceed to Japan, and there secure to Great Britain the same privileges the Americans and Russians had of late been so active in compelling the Japanese government to grant them.

Then, amid clouds of coal-dust and a tumult of baggage and live-stock, we prepare to bid Shanghai good-by—not with a sigh, for who ever sighed or said they were sorry to quit any port in China? We can sympathise with the poor Highflyer's officers and men, who will, like those of the frigate Pique, swing daily round over one spot, until beef-bones, old boots, and broken bottles, form a dangerous shoal under their keel. The great to-morrow, on which we sail for Japan, will next dawn upon us. We go to bed, and

dream, not "o' green fields," but of blue water and rattling sea-breezes, bearing us fresh health and strength.

The sun's rays were making a gallant fight with the malaria-laden yellow mists of the Yang-tsi-Keang Valley as we weighed for the once fabled shores of Cipango. A sleepy display of ensigns from the men-of-war of different nations showed that their officers of the watch recognised the departure of the British Ambassador, the Earl of Elgin and Kincardine, with an escort of two steam-frigates, a corvette, and a gunboat.* Down a winding reach, through miles of turbid water, and past fleets of junks and boats, we sped, until the flat shore dropped abruptly out of sight astern. Then a solitary rock or storm-swept islet appeared in sight, and as quickly disappeared, as we rattled on to the east at a pace which made the fisherman, in his rickety craft, drop his line, and watch us with face indicative of wild astonishment.

The reader knows assuredly what it is to suddenly come on sweet grass, and under cool trees, after a weary walk over a dusty highway. That same sensation of relief and pleasure was generally felt and expressed as we gradually left the muddy waters of a great river, which carries suspended in its stream, they say, earth enough, were it suddenly deposited, to form

* The squadron of his Excellency consisted of the steam-frigate Retribution, 28 guns, Captain C. Barker; the steam-frigate Furious, 16 guns, Captain Sherard Osborn, C.B., on board of which ship his Excellency and suite were embarked; the gunboat Lee, Lieutenant Graham; and the yacht Emperor, Lieutenant Ward.

another England. The emerald green of the deeper portions of the China Sea steadily darkened in tint, until we again, on the morrow of our leaving Shanghai, saw dear mother Ocean clad in her glorious robes of blue!

> "Once more upon the waters! yet once more!
> And the waves bound beneath us, as a steed
> That knows his rider."

After months—nay, more than a year—pothering about in the narrow rivers, creeks, bays, and dirty water of China, it was pleasant again to see blue, bright-blue water, sparkling, laughing, and showing its white teeth under a rattling breeze; and oh! how cheering to look again upon a clear sky, and loose, fleecy, trade-wind clouds sailing athwart it! The charm of novelty, too, enhanced the feelings we experienced. Our cruise to Japan was not avowedly one of discovery, but, after all, it was very like one. We were going upon a coast imperfectly surveyed. The only chart was by a German, Dr Siebold, who, whilst forming part of the Dutch commercial establishment closely imprisoned at Nangasaki, had compiled, from Japanese authorities, a very fair map and chart of the empire, though but poorly adapted for purposes of navigation. We were going to Yedo, the capital of Japan; though it was said we should not approach it, because one clause of Admiral Stirling's treaty of 1854 stipulated that British ships should only go to Nangasaki, at the one extreme of the empire, and Hakodadi at the other. Our Ambassador was to present a yacht

from our Queen to an Emperor who we heard was, by the rules of his empire, never allowed to go beyond the walls of his palace; and then he was, by moral force, to be induced to make a fresh treaty, in the face of a clause in that same Stirling Treaty which runs as follows: "*7th Art.*—When this convention shall have been ratified, *no high officer coming to Japan shall alter it.*" So that we might say there were as many unknown rocks and quicksands ahead of the diplomatic portion of the expedition as there were in the track of the executive.

Information of the geography of Japan was most scant. Kæmpfer and Siebold, though trustworthy in all respects, were ignorant upon the point on which we as seamen most sought for information. The ponderous volumes of the American expedition to Japan had little new in them beyond information about Yedo gulf. Had Marco Polo, in August 1858, sprung from his grave, it is true that he might have been pleased to find that we did not, like his foolish countrymen, smile with incredulity at his wondrous tale of Zipangu or Cipango, but he would have been much astonished to find that, after a lapse of five centuries and a half, Europe knew very little more about Japan than he did when, in the year 1295, he pointed to the eastern margin of the Yellow Sea, and said, "There was a great island there named Zipangu," peopled by a highly civilised and wealthy race, who had bravely rolled back the tide of Tartar conquest in the days of Kublai Khan.

An eminent American, who goes off occasionally on the wings of that dreadful eagle with its claws armed with the lightning, and which is ever soaring over the Rocky Mountains, or sweeping across the western waters, &c. &c., seems to insist that it is the high mission of the United States to do chaperon to Japan, and introduce her to the ken of the western world, all because Christopher Columbus—who, we maintain, was *not* the first American citizen, and cared no more for the Declaration of Independence than he did for General Washington — discovered the American continent in endeavouring to reach that Cathay and Zipangu, of which Marco Polo had written, but in which Columbus had alone the wit, in after years, to believe. However that may be, it is sincerely to be desired that, if she believes in her mission, the United States may go earnestly about it, and send her commodores, flag-officers, consuls, missionaries, and envoys to do the work steadily and well, forbidding them to fly to and from China—of which we believe we have for a while heard enough; and when Congress, revelling in surplus revenue, liberally pays the expense of publishing their servants' journals, they had best be tied down to write of Japan only, and not wander loosely to Singapore, Hong-Kong, the Cape of Good Hope, and St Helena, for the sole purpose of abusing a colonial system which still keeps Great Britain a neck and shoulders ahead of the whole world, and enables us to care but little what the opinion of the United States may be as to how we treated Napoleon Buonaparte.

CHAPTER II.

THE valley of deep water, four hundred and fifty miles in a direct line from the shores of China to those of Japan, delightful though it was to us river-sick seamen, is at present a very lonely sea. The interdiction of foreign trade by the Emperors of Japan included China as well as Europe, and during the centuries in which the flag of Holland alone crossed the sea we were traversing, China was only allowed to send thirteen junks annually to and from Nangasaki. We therefore saw no vessel in our track. Then (excepting great numbers of flying-fish) there was a dearth of animal life, whether fish or bird, where, from our proximity to land, it would have been natural it should be the reverse.

On the afternoon of the 2d August 1858, we reached a group of rocky but picturesque islets, the outposts in this direction of the Japanese empire. Miaco-Sima, or the "Asses' Ears," so named because their peaks run up in a manner not unlike the ears of that animal. Their coasts are bold and craggy, washed by the rollers of a wild though narrow sea, whose spray has left a mark far up the polished wave-worn sides; yet there

was green grass and stout pine-tree immediately above the wash of the sea, and vegetation made a bold fight to reach the summits of the craggy peaks. How different from Chinese scenery! we naturally exclaimed, as our good ship sped past Miaco-Sima, and all declared themselves perfectly satisfied with this first instalment of Japan: it was evident we were determined to be pleased. The mountains of Kiu-Siu Island, on which the city of Nangasaki is situated, were next to rise upon the eastern horizon. The night proved dark and gloomy, and as in the middle watch the bold coasts of Gotto Island were seen to the northward, warning us that we were approaching Japan faster than was prudent, in spite of our anxiety to be quickly into port the speed had to be very much reduced. Day-dawn showed this to have been prudent, for the land about Cape Nomo, the southern entrance of the bay leading to Nangasaki, was on our starboard bow; and thence, stretching far away to our left, rose peak, mountain, and table-land, until lost in the distance. Away to the north, a channel, dotted with islets, was seen between Gotto and Kiu-Siu. It led to Hirando, or Firando, that port so well known to European mariners of centuries now long gone by, when Spaniards and Portuguese, Dutchmen and English, were struggling for a footing in Japan, and each doing his best to have his brother Christian exterminated—how they eventually succeeded, and the Dutchman turned up the trump-card, we will hereafter relate. For the present, we must go at full speed for

a mark in the land ahead, which, the charts tell us, leads us to our haven.

For a while heavy mists swept over land and sea, and we could only see a mile or so ahead. It was very tantalising. Those who had not witnessed day-dawn would not believe we had seen Japan, and growled out complaints of the nuisance, to use a seaman's phrase, of "being jammed in a fog off our port." The consolation was, that possibly the sun would master the fog; and presently there was a play of light along the surface of the sea; the hulls of our vessels came out sharp and clear. Then Japanese junks were seen; presently their sails and masts showed;—the fog was lifting, breaking, and dispersing. Down the mountains of Kiu-Siu rolled masses of cloud; out of every vale and valley came dense mists sweeping down, wrathful at the enemy that was expelling them. Poor cloudland fought at a disadvantage with the lusty youth of a morning sun;—his fierce glance pierced her densest array, and, in sullen showers and flying squalls of wind, night and darkness passed away; whilst day, bright and beaming, burst fairly upon us with a shout of welcome. It was a glorious sight—mountain and plain, valley and islet, clothed with vegetation, or waving with trees and studded with villages—blue sea for a foreground, crisped with the breeze, and calm spots with sandy bays, in amongst islands dotted with fishing-boats and native junks. We must not attempt it, for pen or pencil could never reproduce such a picture.

Early in the forenoon, H.M.S. Furious was entering the charming series of channels leading through islands to Nangasaki. Cape Nomo was now hidden from view, whilst on either hand lay the lovely spots known by the native names of Fwosima and Kamino-sima, "Sima" being Japanese for island. They looked like pieces of land detached from the best parts of the south coast of England, and it is impossible, we believe, to pay them a greater compliment. Their outline was marked and picturesque, clothed, wherever a tree could hang or find holding-ground, with the handsome pine peculiar to the country. Villages and richly cultivated gardens nestled in every nook, and flowers, as well as fruit-trees, were plentiful. To our eyes, the multitude of guns and extraordinary number of batteries which covered every landing-place, or surmounted every height, on these islands, did not enhance their beauty; and we regretted to see the men entering the batteries as we approached. We suspected then, what afterwards proved to be the case, that our Transatlantic friends had taken great care to work upon the fears of the Japanese, by spreading some marvellous tales of what we Britishers had done in China, and intended to do to them. The garrisons of the batteries, however, appeared desirous only of showing how prepared they were; and having gone to their guns, quietly sat down to smoke their pipes, while the officers, seated on the parapets, gracefully fanned themselves. Yet it will be well for all the world that the Japanese are jealous of their liberty;

and that its people will, if need should arise, gallantly defend the beautiful land God has given them.

It would be hazardous to say how many guns are mounted on the islands and points commanding the approach to Nangasaki; some of them may be of wood —merely *quakers;* but we saw hundreds that decidedly were not. The majority were of brass, some of iron, all mounted on wheeled carriages, and seemed, from the gun-gear about them, well found in stores, and efficient. The batteries were very solid, and there was a queer mixture of European and Japanese ideas in their construction—the result being, that although the lower portions would have stood a great deal of hammering from an enemy, the unfortunate gunners would have been too much exposed to have stood long to their guns.

Our attention was now called from the land to a number of government boats, which were dotted about the water ahead of us: they were always in pairs, one, doubtless, *selon les règles,* watching the other. It was desirable to have no communication with these guard-boats—for such we easily recognised them to be—lest they should hand us the copy of some British Treaty, or Convention, by which some one had pledged Her Most Gracious Majesty's subjects not to do this, or not to do that. We happened to have found in an old book—the only old thing, except old port, that we ever liked—a Treaty of Peace and Amity between the Emperor of Japan and James the First, of Great

Britain, dated as far back as the year of grace 1613. By it, right of intercourse, commerce, and suchlike, was secured to us for ever; and as only two centuries and a half had elapsed—a mere flea-bite in the records of such countries as Japan and China—it seemed natural we should still adhere to the privileges secured by bold Captain Saris, of the good ship Clove of London, belonging unto the Honourable and Worshipful Company of Merchants trading to the East Indies—and ignore the folly of those who, in later years, had lost the birthright their ancestors had won for them. In happy ignorance of any treaties made by Admiral Stirling and others, H.M. ships steamed on, pretending perfect unconsciousness of the existence of guard-boats and officials. However, it was soon very evident that if they could not stop us, it was quite as much as their lives were worth not to be able to report correctly upon who and what we were. Just as we had put the helm hard down to escape one pair of boats, two others skilfully tumbled into the wash of our paddle-wheels, and the most expeditious short-hand writers at home could not have made their quills fly faster than did these Japanese in noting down facts that one of their party, who stood on tiptoe to peer into the ports, shouted out for their information. Next day we learnt that the spies had given a very excellent account of H.M.S. Furious, and had only missed one gun in the list of her armament.

Past these impediments, and avoiding some sunken rocks which lie in the channel, the ship appeared to be

running up against the shores of Kiu-Siu, which rose boldly ahead until they terminated in the now cloud-capped Peaks of Hi-kosan and Tarutagama. Was it that the Furious was tired of buffeting the wide sea, and had determined, like the Bounty of Otaheitian fame, to place herself in one of the lovely nooks ahead? No: the channel will show out presently; the beautiful but sadly notorious island of Takaboko bars the view of the entrance to the inner harbour.

Lovely, yet wicked Takaboko—better known as the Papenberg—how calm and smiling it looked down upon our wooden home as we swept past, almost touching it! It so peaceful, so full of repose—we all throb and noise, routine and formality! There, in that pretty nook, we should, we felt assuredly, find that rest, that peace which all men crave for, but so seldom find! "A battery in amongst those trees! sir," said the shrill voice of the signal midshipman, and "four brass guns in it." Brass guns and batteries in such an Eden! what barbarism! We thought with a sigh of an equally barbarous act perpetrated by those gallant Frenchmen, who had planted Vauban batteries among the bread-fruit and palm-trees of sweet Otaheite—the only spot that excelled the scene of beauty which now surrounded us.

Beautiful Papenberg! Yet, if history spoke true, deeds horrid enough for it to have been for ever blighted by God's wrath had been perpetrated there during the persecutions of the Christians in the seventeenth century. It was the Golgotha of the many martyrs to the Roman Catholic faith. There by day

and by night its steep cliffs had rung with the agonised shriek of strong men, or the wail of women and children, launched to rest, after torture, in the deep waters around the island. If Jesuit records are to be believed, the fortitude and virtue exhibited by their Japanese converts in those sad hours of affliction, have not been excelled in any part of the world since religion gave another plea to man to destroy his fellow-creature; and may it not be that the beauty with which nature now adorns that rock of sorrows is her halo of glory around a spot rendered holy by the sufferings, doubtless, of many that were brave and good? Yes! let us think so, and forget the envy, hatred, and malice which once raged rampant there. Let us forget its past history, and look at that Japanese Hebe who stands on the pathway up the face of the Papenberg, and stares at the frigate sweeping past under her feet. Unconscious of the admiration and the telescopes which are directed at her, gentle heathen! of course she is perfectly ignorant of all the compliments her grace and neatness are calling forth; but she puts up her hand and rearranges the brilliant red flowers in her jetty hair. Now she laughs, and, throwing her head aside archly, displays such a glittering set of white teeth! That angel of the Papenberg redeems all the blemishes we might have seen in it; and, like the lovely daughter in the legend of an Ogre's castle, shall she not perfectly reconcile all true knights to the crimes of the remorseless giants who of old held their sway there?

"Hard a-starboard, sir!" exclaims our Palinurus;

and as the spokes of the wheel fly round, the ship turns sharply into the fine channel of water leading up to Nangasaki. That city faced us, spread round the base of a hill at the farther end of the harbour, and having immediately in front of it a rude collection of hybrid European houses, with a flagstaff on the artificial island of Decima, whereon the Japanese had held the Dutchmen voluntary prisoners ever since the expulsion of the Portuguese in 1613. The poor Dutchmen endured insult, restraint, and contumely, rather than forego certain advantages in carrying out Japanese copper and retailing it to Europeans at an enormous profit. Long-suffering and enduring vendors of strong Dutch cheese, Zealand butter, and pleasant schnapps, relief came at last! The Dame Partingtons at home trundled their mops in the face of Holy Mother "Russia," when she felt her mission called her to trounce the Turk and take Constantinople. The Japanese Emperor was astonished to find the belligerents playing a game of hide-and-seek in his many bays and harbours, and wisely concluded that the orthodox old lady of Moscow, whose dominions approached suspiciously close to Japan, might one day think it as Christian-like to rob a Buddhist as a Mohammedan neighbour. He has very wisely departed from the ancient laws of his realm, and has sought for aid and protection where, strangely enough, he can find them, in the friendship of four or five nations who cordially dislike and are jealous of each other. But a truce to politics for a time—the ambition of men or nations,

the crimes of the Christian and heathen, may be studied elsewhere. Let us satisfy ourselves with simply inhaling healthful pleasure from the contemplation of the loveliness nature has spread over the harbour of Nangasaki.

A long fiord of blue water stretches two miles inland between sloping hills which spring from the sea with a bold, rocky escarpment, and then roll gently back, rising to an altitude of a thousand feet or so; and these are overlooked by still more lofty giants—every mountain-side covered with all that can gladden a landscape, and down every ravine gladsome streams rushing on to the sea. Here a village, there a quaint bark anchored in a sandy cove; now an official abode with square-cut terrace and upright fence, so properly stiff, starched, and queer, you felt sure you had only to knock and that one of the Barnacles of society would appear; then, nestling in the midst of green trees and flowery gardens, were the prettiest chalets seen out of Switzerland; children, with no clothes at all, rolling on the grass, or tumbling in and out of the water; whilst their respected parents, with but few habiliments to incommode them, gravely waved their fans, or sat gazing upon the newly-arrived vessels. Oh! it was a goodly sight; but we were all in the mood to be pleased; and had the sky been less clear, the air less bracing, and the climate as bad as that of China, we should assuredly still have admired it.

In former days, a chain of guard-boats used to extend across the gate of this Japanese paradise. One of our

men-of-war, during the Russian war, nearly paddled over them; and we too, it had been determined, were not to be stopped by them. The Japanese officers of the present day are far wiser in their generation than those who, when the frigate of Captain Sir Israel Pellew forced her way into the harbour during the French war, disembowelled themselves rather than survive the disgrace. We found all the boats removed and made fast in by the shore. One officer, more anxious than the rest to do his duty, or, Asiatic like, desirous of ascertaining to what lengths he might go, stood up in his boat as we came abreast of him, and mildly gesticulated with his fan (the everlasting emblem of office in Japan) for us to go back again! We would fain not have seen it; but of course the officious signalman immediately reported that there was a Japanese officer waving. A spy-glass was brought steadily to bear on him; the wretch was about fifty yards off; the action of the fan became at once less violent, then irregular, as if the waver of the fan was in a dilemma; then a spasmodic jerk; the glass was kept steadily on the wretch (we feared lest the Ambassador should see him and cry halt!)—there was a pause, another flutter—hurrah! he shut up his fan, and retired under his awning, beaten. He had only to perform Haki-kari or disembowelment, and we might proceed, giving the officious signalman orders not to make nonsensical reports of every Japanese who chose to fan himself!

We soon anchored off Nangasaki, close to a gallant bark from Holland—just such a ship as should always

sail from stout Amsterdam; none of your fly-away newfangled vessels, lean as a greyhound, and quite as fast—but full, round, and frau-like—exactly the craft, in short, that a vessel rejoicing in the name of the Zeevaart ought to be. Beside her rode *gaily*, at her anchors—which, with every disposition to be gallant to ships and ladies, we cannot say the Zeevaart did—a Japanese screw schooner, under the simple imperial flag, a red ball on a white ground. She had been purchased from the Dutch, for some fabulous sum in copper bars, unless rumour belied the honest burghers of Decima; and all her officers and men were natives, from the engineer to the captain; and from what we saw of their exercise aloft, and what we heard from their Dutch naval instructors, our impression was very favourable to the prospect of the Japanese shortly being again the able and skilful seamen they were three centuries ago, when they used to navigate their frail native craft as far as the ports of Indostan.

An hour passed—no officials came near us. The native boats, before alluded to, had followed the ship, and now hung listlessly about her. The officers in them were evidently very inquisitive; but as we did not invite their approach, they still kept aloof. The Dutchmen on shore seemed equally shy. Some half-dozen sailors, in red shirts, lolled about the landing-place of Decima; but Decima showed no other sign of vitality, and smoke rose as steadily from the Dutch skipper's pipe as he leant over the rail of his argosy and peered at us, as it would have done in the sleepiest

landscape in watery Holland. It suddenly struck us that Decima had gone to bed, and that here, as in Batavia, the community dine about noon, and after dinner all the Mynheers, Fraus, and Frauleins retire to rest, rising from their second sleep about four or five o'clock in the afternoon. We were, we soon ascertained, right in our suspicions; but an officer was sent on shore, remorselessly to stir up the sleeping burghers of Decima with the information of the arrival of his Excellency the British Ambassador.

There was soon a general flurry, for the Japanese appeared to have been waiting for their Dutch friends to awake, to inquire if we might be visited. Japanese officials, with pockets full of paper, pens, and ink, hurried off—jolly good-natured-looking fellows, always ready to laugh, and in appearance resembling more the Kanaka races of the South-Sea Islands than the Chinese we had left behind us. Their dress, in some respects, was Chinese, and their language sounding very like a mixture of the discordancy of that most discordant of languages, and the soft liquid sounds of the Kanaka tongue. But how they interrogated us!—what was the ship's name, our name, the Ambassador's titles—everybody's name and age—everybody's rank and business—what did we want—whither were we going—whence did we come—how many ships were coming—where was our Admiral? Indeed, a Russian customhouse agent, or a British census paper, could not have put more astounding questions, whether in number or nature, than did these Nangasaki reporters.

We were as patient as naval officers, or angels, may usually be supposed to be under such circumstances;—answered all their questions—allowed them to see, touch, smell, and hear everything, except the British Ambassador, who was in his cabin—and then dismissed them with a glass of sherry and a biscuit. The captain and first-lieutenant had hardly congratulated themselves that, at any rate, that portion of the pleasure of visiting Japan was over, when another boatful of reporters arrived, tumbled up the ladder, were very well-behaved, but asked exactly the same questions, and went exactly through the same farce as the first party had done. They were, we learnt, duplicate reporters, whose statements served to check and correct those of the first set of inquirers. Directly they left us, a two-sworded official arrived—two swords in Japan, like two epaulettes in Europe, indicate an officer of some standing. He introduced himself through a Japanese interpreter, who spoke English remarkably well, as "a chief officer," who had an official communication to make. Would he sit down—would he be pleased to unbosom himself? Could he not see the Ambassador? Impossible! What! "a chief officer" communicate with an ambassador! We were truly horrified. The chief officer must be simply insane: did he couple the representative of the majesty of Great Britain with some superintendent of trade? The chief officer apologised; he was very properly shocked at the proposition that he had made; he saw his error, and, what was more to our purpose, the

Ambassador assumed a size and importance in his eyes which it would have been difficult to have realised. The "chief officer" then put his questions—Did Lord Elgin intend to call upon the Governor of Nangasaki? No; he had not time to do so. Did he expect the Governor to wait upon him? The Governor could please himself—the Ambassador would receive him if he came. If the Lieutenant-Governor called on Lord Elgin, would his Excellency receive him? Yes. —This was all the chief officer had to say; his mission was a special one; he begged to wish us good morning, merely adding that the Governor of Nangasaki hoped the Ambassador would kindly accept a small present which would shortly be sent. The present arrived shortly afterwards—a stout cob-built pig of three hundred-weight; and such a quantity of pumpkins! It looked at first very like a joke; indeed, the infernal music of an animal never seen alive on board a man-of-war, added to the comicality of the affair; but the fact is, that the Japanese are a sober-minded, thrifty people, and nothing evinces it better than the following interesting custom, followed in this as in all other cases:—Whenever a Japanese makes a present, whatever the rank of the parties or the value of the gift may be, the donor encloses in an envelope, bearing his name and compliments, a small piece of dried salt-fish, emblematical of the poverty of their ancestors, and of the thrift whereby their present affluence has been attained; and this is often wrapped in a piece of paper, on which is written the following favourite sentence,

"Happy those who never depart from the wisdom of their ancestors,"—a Confucian as well as protectionist doctrine, the widespread faith in which, in this remote part of the world, may be possibly confirmatory and consolatory to some at home who will not believe that free trade and repeal of corn-laws can be beneficial to their country. After this little episode of pig, pumpkin, and salt-fish, the Dutch gentlemen belonging to the factory turned up. The secretary of the Dutch superintendent of trade came, accompanied by two naval officers, instructors lent by the government of Holland to teach the Japanese the arts of navigation, gunnery, and nautical science generally. The former had to explain that the superintendent, Mr Donker Curtius, was absent on public business, and the latter told us that their senior officer or commandant was sick; but they had a good deal of interesting information to give, which was to the following effect:— The superintendent of the factory, Mr Donker Curtius, had been in Jeddo during the past six months, as well as Mr Harris, the American consul-general from Simoda, a port on the opposite coast of Japan. Alarmed by the rumours of the allied operations against China, the Japanese government was at first very fair spoken upon the subjects of granting a treaty to Holland and America, opening her commerce and ports to them, admitting free intercourse with the people, and practising religious toleration. At one time the 14th April had been agreed upon as the

day for the final signature of a treaty; then it was postponed: then rumours were spread of the priesthood, the spiritual emperor, and certain independent nobles, having opposed insurmountable obstacles to any concession. The Tai-koon, or Temporal Emperor, as well as the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, the Prince of Bitsu, appeared well aware of the necessity for some arrangement being made to pacify the Europeans; but they doubtless delayed as long as they could, to see the issue of our efforts to open up China before they yielded themselves; and at last, although always most kindly treated and generously lodged, Mr Curtius and Mr Harris found it necessary to return to their respective posts, as empty-handed as they went. Mr Harris, having but a short distance to go, was doubtless by this time in Simoda, but Mr Donker Curtius, when last heard of, was still on the road, and could not arrive for a week or so. This news, at the first glance, looked unpromising: but there was this one point very certain, that if the Japanese intended to be guided as to their future policy by the concessions England and France should wring from China, we could show that the Court of Pekin had yielded all, and more than was expected from them; and they, at any rate, were saved the humiliation of being the first to concede the point of the exclusion of strangers, &c. It seemed likely that the Americans would turn our operations to account, by working on the fears of the Japanese; for the United States steamer Powhattan,

bearing the flag of Flag-officer Tattnal,* had gone direct from the Gulf of Pecheli to Nangasaki, bearing the news of our success, and spreading tales of our numbers and intentions, which caused no small alarm amongst a people who for twelve months had been kept in a state of excitement by rumours of our doings in their neighbourhood.

* Flag-officer is now the official designation of the American naval Commander-in-Chief. They find Commodore an inconvenient title, and have not as yet brought themselves to use the term Admiral.

CHAPTER III.

PASSING showers of rain, which set in towards evening, did not deter the officers and many of the Earl of Elgin's staff from visiting Decima and Nangasaki.* They returned delighted with the cleanliness and order of the towns, the civility of the people, and better still, the absence of all those unmentionable smells which haunt the visitor on the shores of the neighbouring continent of China. About sundown the boom of three heavy guns twice repeated rolled from seaward over the hills around our anchorage; presently the same sounds came apparently from some nearer point; the battery above the town next took up the tune, and then the reports were heard again and again, until lost in the distance. When we inquired what all this noise was about, a Japanese interpreter informed us that two European sail had appeared in sight of the look-outs, and that these guns were signalising the fact throughout the interior up to Miaco, where the spiritual Emperor resides. Their method, in the absence of electricity, is a rapid mode of signalising; but the

* We have preferred to spell Nangasaki thus, because the *g* in Japan is usually pronounced like *ng*.

expense must be enormous, and can only be supported by a naturally thrifty government, through excessive jealousy and anxiety to know of the movements of Europeans. Next day the arrival of the naval Commander-in-Chief, Sir Michael Seymour, in the Calcutta, towed by the Inflexible, Captain Brooker, proved that the Japanese look-out men's eyes were as correct as they were keen.

It was early morning when we landed at Decima; and in justice to the Dutch residents, whose post-prandial somnolence we have already mentioned, it must be owned, that they had risen with the lark, as men should who dine when the sun is in the zenith. Decima, the foreign quarter of Nangasaki, is an island, and dear old Kæmpfer, the most charming of old Dutch writers upon Japan, compares it in form to an outspread fan without a handle. Its length cannot be much more than five or six hundred yards, and the settlement consists of one street of that extent, intersected at its centre by a short one leading to the only bridge which spans the canal that separates the once hated Christians from the good folks of Nangasaki. Along this street are the houses of the Dutch residents, and their Japanese agents and retainers, besides a number of native stores filled with articles of Japanese manufacture, and called by the name of the Dutch Bazaar. Decima and the residents were all awake and stirring; a few porters were carrying bales of imported produce; a store here and there was open, and boxes or packages were being tumbled about as if

some commercial movement was taking place; but Decima, wide awake and stirring, had none of the rush and throb of buyers and sellers, such as we had seen at the ports of China frequented by European merchants. How changed the scene will be (one involuntarily exclaimed) a few years hence, when Cockney, Scot, and New-Yorker shall be competing who can make money fastest, or be the quickest to improve the Japanese off the face of the earth! Whatever the future Decima may be, Decima as we found it was a solemn-looking, weird-like place, as if bearing the impress of its past strange history, and as if haunted by the memory of the Portuguese and Dutchmen, whose jail it had been. It seemed to say to you, "Yes! here the contemned Pagan crushed and exterminated the professors and believers in your faith, oh Christian, and tempted with gold these poor Dutchmen to commit apostasy, and for its sake they did it!" Even the very stones bear witness to what depths of degradation nations will stoop to preserve some base commercial or political advantage; and without any wish to throw stones at our Protestant neighbours, it would be well if all the reclamations against the Dutch in Japan, by the Roman Catholic writers, could be gainsaid. Could one forget, standing on Decima, that they tortured the Christians instead of merely expelling them the country, one's sympathies would all be with the Japanese.

What could be more noble, more self-denying and energetic, than the course they pursued, when they

found their independence as a free State was imperilled by the adoption of the Romish faith of those days? The Portuguese found the Japanese merchants trading to every part of the East Indies, and they had from the earliest times been in intimate commercial relation with China, sometimes dependent upon her, at other times fiercely assailing her. Their country could not produce many of the luxuries, hardly the necessaries of life, and necessity as well as interest urged the Japanese merchant, in his frail bark, to very distant ports. Yet when it was deemed requisite by their Emperor, the sacrifice was made—all foreign trade ceased—Japan recoiled from connection with every nation, and by dint of great exertions, not only vigorously carried out this system, but, judging by the present happy and contented condition of her people, has had no reason to regret it. "Not a Christian shall remain in Japan," said the edict; and it was a sort of compromise when the Emperor Yeye Mitsu, after driving the priests from his dominions, putting their converts to death and expelling the Spaniards, caused a heap of rubbish to be piled up in shoal-water off the town of Nangasaki, and in 1635 ordered the Portuguese to confine themselves to *that*, the present Decima. Before this time these foreigners had been at liberty to wander about and establish themselves where they pleased on the shores of Kiu-Siu. On Decima the Portuguese remained a short time, subjected to every degradation, instigated, they declared, in a great measure by the Dutch, who then were located at Firando.

First their wives and children were banished to Macao; then they were compelled to abstain from the public services of their Church; and, lastly, they were ordered to tread upon the emblem of their faith. Instead of flying the country, they raised a rebellion; and under the bloody ruins of Simbarra, a city a short distance to the southward, the Portuguese, their converts, and priests, found a common grave; the Dutch assisting in what the Church of Rome dignifies with the title of martyrdom, but which was nothing more than the bloody penalty of a religious insurrection. This happened in 1640. Two short years afterwards, the Dutch, at Firando (for we English had voluntarily withdrawn, in consequence of difficulties arising from the Great Rebellion and other causes), were peremptorily ordered to quit their factory, to erase the date of its erection from the portals, and proceed to Decima. "You will cease to observe the Sabbath," said the mandate; "and on all other points be guided by the instructions you will receive from the Lords of Firando!" The poor Dutchmen went tamely to their jail; and though the most enterprising seamen of that day—though their stout burghers had shaken off the strong grip of Spain—still Japanese gold kobangs, and Japanese copper bars, reconciled them to the contumely they must endure, if they desired to share in those good things; and they bore it with all the phlegm and patience of their race for two centuries. And now, when Americans, Russians, and British have come to awaken them and their jailers to the necessities and

obligations of 1858, they have roused up, looking rather cross, as if we had much better have let things be.

The sun, however, was rising too fast over the Peak of Hi-kosan (giving already an earnest of a considerably hot day), for us to stand longer ruminating on the past or present of Decima.

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Wood enters largely into the construction of all Japanese dwellings; those in Decima are no exception to the rule; but the European houses, though probably very comfortable, are, without exception, formed on the ugliest models Holland ever produced. I need not describe them. The cottages in a box of Nuremberg wooden toys represent them exactly; small black cubes of wood, four white windows in front, as many behind, and a red door. It is, therefore, to the credit of the taste of the natives resident in Decima, that they appear in no way to have copied the Dutch mode of house-building, but have adhered faithfully to their own ideas of the comfortable—which seemed to be comprised under the two sound conditions of good ventilation and plenty of light.

A Japanese house consists of a ground-floor and top-story. The front and back of the basement can be removed at pleasure, leaving it quite open, through the premises, for air and light, except where the posts supporting the first floor intervene. Usually, the front panels only are removed during the daytime, and the back panels, formed of a light, graceful, wood frame-

work, covered with translucent paper, are left to screen the cooking departments and back premises. The floor of the basement is raised about three feet above the level of the ground, and is neatly boarded, and then laid over with a series of stuffed grass mats, on which the inmates walk, sit, feed, and sleep. If it is a shop, the arrangements are still the same, except that the boxes or drawers containing the goods are arranged on shelves on either side, and the merchant and purchasers in their *socks*—for all shoes and boots are carefully put off on these mats—sit on the floor to discuss prices and qualities. The story overhead serves as a place of abode for their wives and families, and those we visited are in height, and ventilation, and cleanliness, vastly superior to the majority of up-stairs rooms in the East.

There was hardly a house in Nangasaki that had not some sort of garden attached to it, and all were well and tastefully kept; but the most striking thing in this city (and it was generally observed by all of us in Japan) was that every man, woman, and child looked happy and contented! There was an exception to the rule—a number of unfortunate solemnities who were in charge of the gateway leading from Decima to Nangasaki; and they were evidently bored to death. Poor scribes! they had to keep notes of everything, animate and inanimate, that went in or out of that solitary outlet to Japan! Every one else met us with a friendly smile, or a good-natured look of amazement, at either our brilliant buttons, our shining boots, or some other phenomenon exhibited in the gorgeous attire of a Bri-

tish naval officer. The labouring portion of the male population decidedly took little anxious care for their raiment—a piece of cotton cloth, a yard long and six inches wide, constituting their general attire; and many of the children might have just escaped from Eden, so innocent were they of any clothing. Laughing and coaxing, they came unhesitatingly up to us, begging, in their naturally pretty way, for buttons, "Cassi button?" "Cassi button?" It was irresistible, and we gave all we could spare; but what those little urchins were going to do with buttons, seeing they had neither rag nor ornament upon them, was a puzzle to us. The grown-up women were modestly attired in dark-coloured garments, their beautiful hair neatly dressed, and, but that their nails were dyed, there was a general appearance of beauty about them, combined with much grace in the figures of the younger ones. The Japanese officials and gentry were very well dressed, and in their attire displayed considerable dandyism, according to their own fashion. But in their dress, as well as in their houses, in Japan, we noticed the prevalence of sombre colours, and the absence of that vulgar colouring and tinsel-work so common in China. Here the out-door dress of the ladies, and that of the poor girls at the tea-gardens, and the wives of the tradespeople, was quiet in colour, however fine the texture might be; and amongst the official dresses of the officers, black, dark blue, and black and white patterns, were the most general. Their houses and temples are likewise painted less gaudily than elsewhere in the

East, and there was far less gilding about them. This peculiarity in Japanese taste was one of the first impressions received on our visiting Japan, and, like many first impressions, proved to be correct.

We found the Dutch bazaar at Decima filled with porcelain and lacker-ware in a thousand tasteful forms; we had fancied ourselves perfectly *blasé* about all "curiosities," but such impenetrability gave way rapidly with the temptation before us. The first feeling was a desire to buy up everything, where all was so pretty. Tables, curiously inlaid with mother-of-pearl—representations of birds and animals, which our papier-maché manufacturers, or those of France, would give anything to be able to imitate—cabinets, on which golden fish or tortoise stood out in most truthful relief—wonderful little gems in ivory, bone, or wood, fifty times more replete with originality, skill, and wit than anything China ever produced—porcelain so delicate, that you were almost afraid to touch it—in short, a child in a pastrycook's shop never ran from sweet to sweet more perplexed to know which to invest in, than we that morning in Decima bazaar!

We were fast approaching the bottom of a very modest purse, and, in exultation at our purchases, remarked to a Dutch understrapper, who happened to be near, that the articles were most beautiful. "Most beautifuls," he repeated; "the Dotch bazaar has all the beautifuls things—you will find noting in the Roshian bazaar." Here he smiled with supreme contempt—did this inhabitant of Decima, adding scorn-

fully, "Roshian bazaar! there is notings beautifuls in that bazaar."

We instantly resolved to go there (so naturally perverse is man), but inquired of our friend, whether the bazaar to which he alluded was for the sale of Russian produce or manufacture?

"Nay, nay," said my scornful Hollander; "they have nótings Roshian in it—only they frightened the Japanese, to make them open another place in which tings might be bought, and had it called a Roshian bazaar."

"They have been much about Japan of late?" I remarked.

"Yah! very moch, and more by-and-by." Then he wagged his head and sighed, evidently seeing sad days in store for Japan and Dutch merchants at Decima.

Why is it, we thought, as we hurried off into Nangasaki, that Russia is always thus the *bête noir* of every man, except Monsieur le Comte de Morny?

Through a gateway we entered the Russian bazaar; it was situated close to the water-side, and consisted of an enclosed quadrangle, about an acre in extent, having on three sides booths, in which a profusion of articles were exhibited for sale—much of the same sort we had seen in Decima, but perhaps not quite so good, though in greater variety. A rush of officers from the men-of-war in port now took place—each stall was speedily besieged with eager faces; and eager voices, in good round Saxon, were clamouring to know the price of everything, and to be served immediately. The Japanese tradesmen showed wonderful self-pos-

session and commercial acumen, under this sudden onslaught of purchasers. A Chinaman would have sat down sulkily, smoked his pipe, and given short answers to be rid of such a crowd of purchasers. The Japanese called for more aid, and then briskly rushed about the booth, giving information, praised his wares, packed up and despatched his goods expeditiously, and laughed and smiled all the while, as if the whole thing was an admirable joke. They were quite as ready to sell as we were to buy, and showed a degree of handiness, intelligence, and good arrangement, which augured well for their management of commercial transactions upon a more extensive scale.

By the old laws of the Japanese Empire, the exportation of their currency, whether gold, silver, or copper, is strictly prohibited, and to insure it, no European is allowed to possess native coin. The difficulty, therefore, of purchasing would be great upon that ground alone; but in addition to this rule, another exists, by which the natives are forbidden to receive our coins either. For a while, it seemed there must be a deadlock in the market;' but it was explained to us that a government bank existed in the bazaar, where we could obtain paper currency, (available only in Nangasaki) in exchange for our dollars. From that bank we came out with bundles of very simple-looking strips of card-board covered with cabalistic signs, indicative of their value, in lieu of the silver we had given —a favour for which the Government charged us six per cent! With these Japanese bank-notes we paid

the tradesmen, whom no amount of persuasion could induce to receive silver; and they again, poor fellows, had to present them at the bank, and receive the amount in the metallic currency of the country, paying of course a handsome tax for the honour of selling to the foreigners. Apart from this little restriction upon the exchange, there was no difficulty in making purchases; and it was very remarkable that in this country, which for two centuries had declared that it required no foreign commerce, and was totally indifferent either to the products or money of other nations, and proved how great was the natural commercial and money-making genius of the people—that nearly every article exposed in this Russian bazaar was the manufacture of the dependants of the prince upon whose territory Nangasaki was situated. We were then assured, and subsequent information confirmed the statement, that nearly all the independent princes emulate each other in manufacturing, or rather imitating, every European article that can be copied, and then send the surplus specimens to be sold throughout the empire.

At one stall we found microscopes, telescopes, sundials, rules, scales, clocks, knives, spoons, glass, beads, trinkets, and mirrors—all of native make upon European models—and the prices were so ridiculously small, that even at the lowest estimate of the value of labour it was a puzzle how any profit could be realised upon the articles. The microscopes were very neat, and intended to be carried in the pocket: an imitation

morocco case opened, and contained within it a small and not powerful lens, fixed in a metal frame at a short distance from an upright pin, on which the object for examination was to be stuck, and the entire workmanship was highly creditable. The telescopes were framed in stiff paper-cases, sufficiently thick and ingeniously lackered to resemble leather over wood. The glasses, though small, were clear: the magnifying power was not great, but it was a marvel to see such an instrument sold for a shilling! We saw another superior description of Japanese telescope, six feet long when pulled out; it was quite as powerful and as genuine as those *real Dollands* which our naval outfitters are in the habit of procuring for credulous parents when equipping their sailor children at sea-ports. The price at Nangasaki is a dollar or five shillings, but at Portsmouth it is five pounds sterling! The Japanese clocks exhibited for sale were beautiful specimens of mechanism, and proved what we had heard, that the people of this country are most cunning in the fashioning of metals. One was like those table-clocks we see at home under square glass-covers, all the works being open to scrutiny; it was six or eight inches high, and about as broad, and it would have been difficult to know it from one of Mr Dent's best of a like description. The Japanese day being divided into twelve hours of unequal duration—dependent, so far as we could understand, upon the amount of day-light or darkness in each day—the dial of their clocks was therefore different from ours; in some it was

changed every month, and in others the motion of the hands was regulated by an ingenious adaptation of weights and increased or decreased length of pendulum. A good clock of this description, which, from its elegance, and the beautiful workmanship and chasing of the exterior, would have been an ornament anywhere, was only priced at about £8.

When Japan was first visited by Europeans, silk in the raw state was largely imported from Tonquin and China: it appears likely that, when Nangasaki is opened again to foreign commerce, silk, both raw and manufactured, will be exported to an equal extent. Manufactured silks and crapes were both plentiful and cheap, and some of the heavier descriptions, such as are not made in China. The gentry and higher orders of tradespeople wore silk, and it appears that, during the period Japan has shut herself out from the world, she has succeeded in successfully naturalising the silkworm.

Every dollar spent, and nearly denuded of uniform buttons, which had been presented as *gages d'amitié* to the delighted children in the streets, we strolled back to the landing-place, and pulled to the ship, raced off for the greater part of the distance by a gig's crew of Japanese men-of-war's men — stout-built, brawny-chested fellows, with shaved polls and beardless faces. Of course it was highly unbecoming that such exalted foreigners should race against a boat-load of black fellows, and our men looked as if they thought their chief must have taken leave of his senses when

they were ordered to "give way;" but it was something to find a boat full of dark skins, who, from pure spirit of emulation, desired to match their bone and muscle against white men; so they were indulged. Right well the Johnnies—for who is not a "bono" or "no bono Johnny" to our men?—put their wills to their oars, and good-naturedly they laughed as we shot by them, and told them in words and by signs that they were stout good fellows. Then they tossed their oars, and sheared off to his Imperial Japanese Majesty's schooner, a craft which looked in fair order, and on board of which the men exercised daily aloft in a highly creditable manner.

Our day's observations led us to a conclusion which every hour in Japan confirmed—that the people inhabiting it are a very remarkable race, and destined, by God's help, to play an important *rôle* in the future history of this remote quarter of the globe. It was impossible not to recognise in their colour, features, dress, and customs, the Semitic stock whence they must have sprung; but they differed much, physically and mentally, from that cold-blooded race. Full of fresh life and energy, anxious to share and compete with European civilisation, ready to acknowledge its superiority, and desirous of adapting it to their social and public wants, how charming a contrast to the stolid Chinaman, who smiles blandly at some marvel of western skill or science, and calmly assures you that their countrymen "hab got all the same that, Pekin side!" The Dutch naval and general instructors bore

the highest testimony to the intelligence and mental capacity of their pupils; that their aptitude for every branch of knowledge, and their avidity for acquiring information, were equally remarkable. Mathematics, algebra, and geography, they acquired *con amore*, and the facility of computation by means of the European system of arithmetic, astonished and delighted them exceedingly. There was not a trade, or manufacture, or invention common to Europe or the United States that they did not expect to have explained to them, in order that they might immediately proceed to imitate it; and inquiries upon these subjects would come from the Government, the nobles, and the people generally. Like very inquisitive children, they often nearly posed their instructors.

One day some great personage desired to have the construction of Colt's pistols and Sharp's rifles explained to him, in order that he might undertake their manufacture.* Another insisted upon making aneroids at Yedo. Glass-making in all its branches became a great rage, and some of the specimens of ornamental bottles were very original and tasteful in pattern. Iron and brass guns were cast of every calibre up to those of ten inches diameter. Shells, with the latest improvements in fuzes, one prince could produce; and another became so enraptured with steam machinery, and I daresay so shocked at the enormous price the Dutch

* We heard that the Prince of Saxuma had armed his retainers with both of the above weapons, made by native workmen after models obtained from Europeans.

charged them for their steamers, that a factory for their construction was established, and one complete engine had already been turned out of hand, put up in a vessel built at Nangasaki, and actually worked about the harbour.

On all the thousand and one difficulties that occurred to the Japanese in carrying out their system of imitating in Japan all we could produce in Europe, the Dutch instructors were expected to throw a light, and perhaps they sometimes suffer in reputation as oracles. They put me much in mind of the unenviable position one of our sailors is often placed in when he deserts to some island in the South Seas. "Can you preach, mend a musket, and fight?" is the general question put by the assembled natives. "Of course I can," is the reply of the poor fellow, who is installed immediately in the triple office of high priest, oracle, and monarch; and amidst the unceasing calls upon his theology, his oratory, his inventive powers, and his pugnacity, often wishes himself safely back in the fore-top of her Majesty's brig Diver.

These Dutch gentlemen were not, however, daunted by the difficulties they had to surmount, and strove hard to impart all the knowledge that was sought. As an instance of the abrupt and unexpected queries put to them, one of these persons told me that a Japanese came all the way from the capital, an overland journey of forty odd days' duration, to inquire about one particular subject. What was it?—"Explain the means by which the hourly variations of the barometer

may be registered by means of a photographic apparatus!"

My informant was for a time fairly puzzled, but at last, in some recent work on photography, he found what had been done, and told the messenger how it was possible to do so. "But surely you want some other information?" he asked. "No, that was what he was sent to know, and he had no other business!" The latest improvement adopted was to teach the young men to ride in European fashion for military purposes; and whilst we were in Nangasaki, a Dutch non-commissioned officer was busy teaching a number of Japanese gentlemen to ride in a riding-school constructed for the purpose. When they were perfect, they would be sent into different provinces to instruct their countrymen; for although there are abundance of horses in Japan, and rather good ones too, still, what with straw-shoes for their hoofs, and stirrups weighing fifty pounds a-piece, and lackered saddles, it must be acknowledged that their cavalry is as yet far from formidable. In infantry movements I was told that they had for some time received instruction, and that, as a militia, their force was very respectable; indeed, a Russian officer who was staying at Nangasaki, and who had seen much of Japan, spoke of the perfect military organisation of the empire in warm terms. From his description, the entire population formed one complete army, of which every town, village, and hamlet might be said to be companies or sections. The power, however, of directing these forces upon any point, either for offence or

defence, is vastly curbed by the independent tenure of the three hundred and sixty princes. Each of these is the chief authority in his own state, and, like the barons of old, claims a power of life and death over his subjects, though at the same time acknowledging as their sovereign and chief the Tai-koon, and the council resident in Yedo. Owing to the absence of the Dutch superintendent of trade, Donker Curtius, upon the diplomatic service spoken of in the last chapter, there was a considerable amount of restraint in the bearing of the Dutch residents. They appeared in doubt what part it was prudent to play, and what amount of information to give in the present uncertain state of the foreign relations between Japan and Europe. Perhaps it was natural enough that they should not at once feel at ease, when the restrictions and contumely they have endured so long were suddenly removed. From what they said, it was utterly out of the question for the British ambassador to attempt to open negotiations with the imperial government through the very inferior officers known to Europeans as the governor and lieutenant-governor of Nangasaki; indeed, had they even been men of rank, there were obvious reasons why those who had been the instruments of an insulting policy towards Europeans should, if possible, have nothing to do with the arrangements upon which our future intercourse was to be carried on. The presentation of the yacht sent by her most gracious Majesty to the Emperor of Japan would have been equally improper at this spot, and as, in the orders given to her com-

mander, some one in England had by accident directed her to be presented at Yedo, Lord Elgin availed himself of that excuse for proceeding thither immediately. This arrangement became all the more feasible, as the naval commander-in-chief, who had been the person instructed to deliver the yacht to the Japanese government, found himself unable to go as far as Yedo at this moment, and deputed the senior officer of our little squadron, Captain Charles Barker, to do so, in such a manner, time, or place, as the Ambassador might desire; and to Yedo, or as near it as possible, we were now to proceed.

CHAPTER IV.

THE promised visit of the Lieutenant-governor of Nangasaki to his Excellency the British ambassador took place in the afternoon. The Lieutenant-governor was anxious not only to see the Ambassador, of whom they had heard much in Japan, and whose advent in a pacific character they little expected, but he wished to examine and report upon the yacht Emperor. It was arranged that, after the visit to Lord Elgin, the Lieutenant-governor should proceed to inspect her, escorted by Lieutenant-commander Ward. On all previous occasions that British men-of-war had visited Japan, or that high officers of the two nations had exchanged civilities, our usual custom of saluting with guns in honour of their rank had been avoided, in obedience to Japanese port-orders. Even on this occasion Lord Elgin had requested the senior officer, Captain Barker, not to pay him the usual token of respect, in deference, as we concluded, to the wishes of the Japanese authorities. Suspecting, however, that the Japanese officials might after all be inclined to stretch the point when compliments to themselves were in question, it was arranged that the Lieutenant-governor should be asked

if he would like a salute, and if so, it was immediately to be fired. He not only wished to be saluted, but knew the number of charges he was entitled to by our European code. I need not say that the Retribution was firing away almost as soon as the wish was expressed; and for the future, at any rate, British ships need not hesitate to pay to their own or foreign officers the proper marks of respect. We afterwards learnt that the American and Russian flag-officers had very recently, in the same port, been firing salutes in honour of the anniversary of American independence, and of each other.

It was suggested that it would give us great pleasure to salute the Japanese flag with twenty-one guns, as men-of-war usually do on visiting the port of a friendly power. Our visitors approved of the idea amazingly; but on making an inquiry as to whether the forts or ships would return the salute with an equal number of guns (a *sine qua non* in all international salutes), they replied—"Return salute—how?—why?" We explained that if England salutes Japan, Japan must return the compliment. "Ah!" said the interpreter, "Japan cannot do that. Japan cannot salute: the Government has given no authority to do so." "Then please to tell the Governor that England cannot salute until Japan does."

The Lieutenant-governor then proceeded to lunch with his Lordship. After lunch, the yacht was visited, and the authorities expressed themselves delighted with the completeness and beauty of every part of the vessel,

and promised to send up to Yedo most favourable reports of the gift to his imperial majesty the Tai-koon of Japan.

Every one in the squadron asked why, of all things to be found in Great Britain, the Government should have selected a yacht—about the only object that it was utterly impossible the Tai-koon should ever use? Any one who had taken the trouble to read the briefest account of Japan could have known that. Yedo was said to be unapproachable for vessels; and even if the yacht, drawing twelve feet water, could touch the quay, the Tai-koon at Yedo (like the spiritual Emperor at Miaco) was forbidden to quit his palace, and so could never see her except with a spy-glass from his terraces, two miles off! So far as an excuse for going to Yedo was concerned, any present, with instructions to deliver it at that place, would certainly have answered the purpose. When one saw how full of intelligence all the higher classes in Japan were—how capable of appreciating the skill and mechanism employed in any of the marvels of scientific labour Great Britain contains—it was a subject of regret that a screw-schooner, with bird's-eye maple panels and velvet cushions—very handsome no doubt, but quite matched by most river-boats in England or America—should have been the only specimen sent of our mechanical or manufacturing skill.

A lieutenant of the Russian navy, who had been left behind in charge of a party of scorbutic sailors, landed from the frigate Esvold, visited us, and had

much to say of the untiring kindness of the authorities, and of the Japanese in general. Lieutenant L—— declared them to be the finest race on the earth; and as he lived amongst them, and saw but little of the Dutch, he was in a good position to form an opinion on the subject.

There is, I think, far more of the South-Sea islander than of the Chinaman in these inhabitants of Southern Japan. Love, who never assuredly had so little nose as to enter China, has made Japan his abiding-place, and lurks in the bright eyes of all her bronze-cheeked daughters—the "ower gude" may think too much so, but, poor souls! let us be charitable until we teach them better. These people are an active-minded, intelligent race, obedient to their own laws; and obedience to them is the only limit they know when they serve or oblige the European. Two hundred years of peace have not made them scorn the sword as the best arbitrator of fraud or injustice, and military rank is still held in high honour among them.

Woman holds in Japan a high social position. She is not cooped up in pestiferous apartment to delight some fattened-up Chinese mandarin, or greasy Brahmin, but contributes not a little to the charms of man's life; she has succeeded in asserting her right to be treated like a rational being, quite as well able to take care of herself as the sterner sex. Their freedom granted, it is true, the fair damsels—nay, and the matrons—have in some respects "jumped over the traces." Then, with a highly commendable liking to

scrupulous cleanliness, they somewhat depart from Western notions of propriety as to the time and place for their ablutions. Yet, after all, that is a mere matter of taste. A tub of water in the open air, in a balmy climate, is, all will allow, very delicious, and the ladies of Nangasaki saw no good reason to forego their pleasurable bath because there happened to be an unsolicited influx of hairy-faced strangers, at a season of the year when bathing was more than ever necessary. Their own countrymen did not stop and stare, but went and did likewise. Let future European residents resist the temptation to adopt the al-fresco habits of the people; meantime let us bear in mind our good old motto, "Honi soit qui mal y pense." . . . .

We had been two days and one night in Nangasaki; the second evening was closing in, and though we could not already be tired of it, yet oh! we longed so to be off to Yedo!—Yedo, the mysterious city of such enormous extent, famous for the beauty of its site, with a population next in numbers to London. Yedo was the great wonder it was just possible (thought and said some sanguine individuals) that we might see. The idea was scoffed at by our Dutch friends: it was true that there was salt water, that the Gulf of Yedo washed the beach close up to the capital; but then there were banks and shallows and dangers which rendered it impossible for great ships to approach the sacred city. Yet the sea was there, and where there was salt water, there was hope for our handy ships. . . . . To wish to be off again from so sweet a place

as Nangasaki, seemed unreasonable and restless. Looking as we did that last beautiful evening on all the loveliness around us, the rebuke at first seemed well merited. The bay by day is beautiful, but give me Nangasaki by moonlight, when the heat is passing away, and the cool breezes of night invigorate the frame and stipple the polished surface of the water, which reflects the starry beauty of the blue vault overhead, except where the dark shadows of native and foreign craft are thrown athwart it. The delicate play of the moonlight upon town, village, and upland; the phosphorescent wake of the numerous boats passing and repassing; the twinkling lights and the drowsy hum of a large city during the early hours of night—all formed a picture which might tempt the mind to rest here content. And as we stood in that calm moonlight we talked of wild scenes that had been enacted here. We hear of a goodly Spanish ship that sailed in long ago through that seaward portal, now shrouded by the dark gloom of the overhanging cliff. She is a tall ship of three decks, a yearly trader from the Philippines—a royal vessel combining the war-ship and merchantman. Her swelling canvass furled, she swings to her anchors, and flaunts from many a mast quaint colours and pennons. Culverins and brass pieces peer out of her ports; and the golden ensign, with its broad bloody stripes, waves proudly over her stern. On shore there is much excitement. Twelve months previously, the Japanese had learnt that a vessel of their country had been basely set upon off the Philippines

by Spaniards, and the vessel and crew sunk in the depths of the sea, and the imperial government had forbidden Spaniards under pain of death to visit Japan. This galleon had come in contempt of the mandate, and, though warned of the horrors that would ensue, the Spaniard would not or could not sail. The court issues a mandate, and the Spaniard must suffer at any cost the penalty of his insolence. We may fancy the muster of row-boats,—the Prince of Arima arranging his devoted retainers, promising high reward to the valiant, short shrift to the craven. We can fancy the scornful feelings of the high-couraged Don in his lofty bark for the yelping wolves around him, naked half-armed infidels, who come against the steel-clad conquerors of half the world! Then the shout of defiance, and the wild music of the war-shell, as each party rushed on. Wolves never went better at a sure quarry than the Japanese at the huge ship. In spite of resistance, they cling to her tall sides, scale them, reach the upper deck, and throw themselves, regardless of life, upon the astonished Spaniards. When too late, the Don sees he has underrated his foe. He determines to resort to a desperate expedient of those times.* The retreat sounds, all the Spaniards rush below to the lower deck, and the upper deck is blown up, and with a yell of victory on their lips the Japanese are hurled into the water scorched and burnt.

* In olden times, blowing up the deck with small quantities of powder was resorted to in cases of a desperate resistance to boarding-parties.

Alas for the Spaniard! the wind is right adverse to his escape, and every minute adds hundreds to the host pouring down to the attack. There is nothing for it but a death worthy of his race. Again the assault, again numbers carry the day, and the resolute Spaniards retire to the third deck, and again blow up the victors above them. Thrice, says the Japanese chronicle quoted by worthy Master Kæmpfer, was this desperate mode of resistance resorted to, until defenders, assailants, and galleon sunk in the bloody waters. Although the unfortunate infringers of the imperial edict had perished to a man, the native historian acknowledges that the triumph of Japanese justice had been won only by the sacrifice of three thousand of her sons! Such was one episode in the history of Nangasaki. Under the seductive appearances of this Japanese Capua are there still such fierce and bloody feelings, which a single spark may rouse into action? . . . .

In naval life, they who would be doing must necessarily be restless, and too true is it that

——"To *have* done,
Is to hang, like rusty armour, in monumental mockery."

No sooner does a sailor anchor in quiet haven than he would fain be pushing to sea; no sooner there, than, buffeted by wind and sea, he desires another port. Some call this restlessness, discontent, and it has been declared to be

——"A fever at the core,
Fatal to him who bears, to all that ever bore."

And while we do not agree with this, we say that if we sailors do not always know what is best for us, we do not differ in this respect from the rest of mankind —the tale of the three wishes and the famous black-pudding having been invented long since for the reproof upon that point of landsmen, no doubt. And as the night is fine, and we do not sail before noon to-morrow, let me tell you, as a *pendant* to that same story, the nautical legend on the subject of constantly wishing for what we have not got, and not knowing what we want. Down amongst those South-Sea isles which fairies delight to visit, and sailors love to cruise in, H.M. frigate —— had just sailed from some sweet spot, where the songs were as sweet as those of *Tobonai*. There had been weeping Neuhas on the shore, and there was many a sad Torquil on board that day. No one, except the restless captain, rejoiced in the sparkling blue Pacific and rattling trade-wind which filled the frigate's canvass, and sped her dancing over the sea.

Tom Hardy sat on the fore-bitts, and said, "There was no peace whatsomedever aboard a ship; and it was precious hard, just as a poor fellow had got exactly what he wanted, that the adjective ship got underweigh, to pitch her adjective forecastle into a chopping head-sea." "Ah! you never knows what you really want," said his sage shipmate; "and if so be you could get what you wants just for the asking, you would not know what to ask for." Tom used most emphatic language, and wished himself in very uncom-

fortable places if ever he should growl again, provided he could have three or four wishes fulfilled. Hardly had the words passed Tom's lips when a beautiful fairy stood before him.

"Speak up, Tom Hardy," said she; "say what you want to make you a contented captain of the fo'castle. I'll give you four wishes, provided they are for as many different things." You might think Tom would be for a moment startled; but a beautiful lady, with a profusion of hair and very little clothing, was not quite the thing to frighten him. "Thank ye, marm," said Tom, touching his cap; "I'm all ready, and much obleeged to yer." "Then fire away!" said the fairy. "First and foremost," said Tom, "I wants plenty of grog." "That you shall have," replied the fairy, smiling; "real Jamaica pine-apple flavour—as much as you can swim in." You see the fairy was accustomed to sailors. "Then," proceeded Tom, rubbing his hands, "let us have heaps of 'baccy—bird's-eye and cavendish mixed." "All right, Tom!" said the lady; "heaps of 'baccy, bird's-eye and cavendish mixed, you shall have." "By Jove, you are a brick!" says Tom; "you are about the best friend I ever had. Lookye here, my beauty!" says he, getting up as if he was going to shake hands with the fairy. "Hands off, Mr Tom!" exclaimed she; "go on wishing. You are only half-way through your bargain." "Well," says Tom, "what I next wants—begging your parding, seeing you're a lady—is plenty of pretty girls when I goes ashore." "Very well!" replied the fairy, laughing like anything,

"you shall have them too; and I'll throw some fiddlers into the bargain." Tom was delighted. "By the Lord Harry!" he said, "I'm happy now. I say, chum! how about not knowing what was good for me? Here's grog galore, heaps of 'baccy, and lots of sweethearts. I'm content." "But come, come, Tom," urged the fairy; "fulfil your part of the contract. You must wish once more: be quick!" "Oh, bother it!" growled out Tom Hardy; "must I really?" "Yes; come, be quick!" she replied. "Well, then," said he, give us more grog." "Your chum was in the right," said the fairy; "you don't know what you want. You ask for more grog, when I have already promised you enough to swim in; and you have forgotten to ask to be put ashore from the frigate. You are a good-for-nothing old growl, and so you will remain to the end of your days." With that she disappeared; and it is true enough Tom Hardy is now as big an old growl as ever chewed quid on a forecastle, though he firmly believes, if that fairy would only give him *another chance*, he would know what to ask for.

The afternoon of August 5th, 1858, saw the good ship steaming past the different headlands, islands, and batteries as we quitted Nangasaki: the sea was smooth, and played upon by just enough wind to give animation to great numbers of native craft. Every creek, channel, and bay was studded with vessels of all sizes—from those of a hundred and fifty tons burthen to petty fishing-boats—so that though the government has interdicted foreign commercial intercourse, there

must be a vast coasting trade and a large seafaring population. Brighter afternoon never shone, and the scene was one of unsurpassed beauty and interest as we bowled away southward to round the extreme point of the Japanese group, and so enter the sea which washes its eastern seaboard. Between the deeply indented coasts of the Morea and its off-lying islands and this portion of Japan, there is much resemblance; but on close approach Japan shows signs of a high order of civilisation, energy, industry, and wealth, which modern Greece decidedly does not exhibit, whatever it did in olden days.

Singular as is the construction of a Chinese junk, and original as are the various appliances to meet the requirements of her occupation as a traverser of stormy seas, the Japanese vessels of large size are still more curious. We saw many fully one hundred and twenty tons burthen. Their length was about a hundred feet, the extreme beam fully a fourth of the length, and far aft as in the America yacht; the depth of the hold was not great, and the form of that portion of the vessel that was immersed was very fine, and calculated for great speed. The bow was long, and the gunwale was not high, but it curved gently up into a lofty stem very like that of the Roman galley, and finished, like it, with an ornamental beak-head, serving to secure the forestay of the solitary mast. The mast was a ponderous mass of pieces of fir, glued, pegged, and hooped together in the same way as those for our large ships are built; the height from deck to truck was full fifty

feet, and the head of the mast had a curve in it, to serve better as a derrick in supporting the heavy yard: the halliards going in one direction aft, and the stay in the other forward, seemed the principal supports of this ponderous spar, but there were backstays and shrouds in some cases. The yard was a rough clumsy spar slung amidship, the sail an oblong mass of cotton cloths, which are not sewn, but *laced* vertically to each other in such a manner that daylight may be seen between the cloths of which the sail is composed; and when it is desirable to reef, a cloth is unlaced, and the sail reduced in a vertical direction—not horizontally, as seamen of every other part of the world do, including even those of China. This sail and mast are placed well abaft the centre of the vessel, and to tack or veer, the sheet and tack have merely to be reversed. When on a wind, the vessel's long bow and nose serve like a head-sail to keep her from coming up into the wind's eye; and it is truly strange to see a sail hanging in a perfect bag, and each cloth in it what seamen call *bellying*, like a yacht's balloon-jib, yet that the vessel keeps a good wind, and makes great progress in smooth water. In the arrangement of the stern and rudder they differ little from the Chinese, but the tiller is marvellously long, doubtless to save labour by increased leverage. The shores of the Japanese group afford great facilities for a coasting trade, from the abundance of harbours, and the shelter for vessels of small size which can cling to the shore. This is one reason that every Japanese vessel is so profusely furnished

with anchors and cables. The former are of iron, and of grapnel shape, right serviceable-looking, and all the large vessels had from six to eight arranged on the fore-end. This circumstance gave us the first hint that Japan was anything but a smooth-water coast. These traders navigate the great inland sea known as the Suwo-nada, between the three great islands of Nipon-Sikok and Kiu-siu; and they likewise run up and down the west coast of Kiu-siu, and from Miaco to Yedo by way of the Strait of Kino. We saw none of them on the stormy east coast of Kiu-siu; indeed, in the weather we experienced off it on two occasions, no native vessels could have lived.

Towards sunset we saw on our larboard beam the entrance to the great bay in Kiu-siu, on which the ill-fated city of Simbarra stands. The place still exists—at least it is marked in the latest chart—and history will preserve the name of a spot which was the last stronghold of native Christianity in Japan, and which saw, as Roman Catholic writers assert, the destruction of thirty thousand converts to their faith. It was at Simbarra, too, over the common grave of its inhabitants, that the famous inscription was erected, warning the natives, that to prefer to their ancient faith that of the Christians, would be to draw down upon themselves the punishment due to traitors to their emperor and their country. One sentence ran thus: "So long as the sun shall warm the earth, let no Christian be so bold as to come to Japan; and let all know that the King of Spain himself, or the

Christian's God (query, the Pope?), if he violate this command, shall pay for it with his head."

Before night closed in, the lofty inland heights in the centre of southern Kiu-siu rose sharp and clear against the sky, and throughout the first watch we saw the loom of these mountains, known to ancient mariners under the not euphonious title of the highlands of Bungo! A freshening breeze sped us on, and islands and rocks were rapidly passed as we hurried to reach the channel (called after the navigator Vancouver), which separates Kiu-siu from the long string of dependent isles known as the Linschoten and Loo-choo groups. There was a threatening twinkle about the stars, which would have betokened a hard north-easter upon our own shores; and as, in spite of a difference of twenty degrees of latitude between England and Japan, there was reason to believe the climates were much alike, we made preparations to face the heavy gale and sea which would already be lashing the coast to the eastward of Cape Satanomi-saki. The squadron had parted company, but we expected we should all meet again at the port of Simoda, our next rendezvous. Waiting for one another was not to be thought of where expedition was so necessary. Lord Elgin intended to finish off his work in Japan, and return to Shanghai in time to meet the Imperial Commissioners from Pekin. As we are rounding the coast to enter the Straits of Vancouver —from right before the breeze to a taut bowline, then, furling sails, sending down top-gallant yards

and masts, and by the aid of steam power facing the gale—we may, the better to understand the country we are writing of, tell in a condensed form some of the most striking passages of the history of its intercourse with foreign nations. The basis of the narrative is taken from Purchas, Marco Polo, Kæmpfer, Siebold, and portions of a Chinese work entitled *An Illustrated Notice of Countries beyond the Sea*,* translated by Thomas Wade, Esq., Chinese Secretary to the British Embassy, to whom I am indebted not only for its perusal, but also for some most able papers published some years since.

* This work was compiled by Commissioner Lin, of opium notoriety, during his disgrace in the last war with England. It first appeared in 1842, and has now gone through four editions, with considerable corrections. It is rather remarkable that the wealthy family of Commissioner Yeh contributed largely to the expenses of its publication.

CHAPTER V.

JAPAN, or, as the natives pronounce it, Nīpon, consists of three large islands, Nīpon, Sikok, and Jesso, and a host of smaller ones, extending from latitude 29° north to latitude 45° north. Nīpon, which gives its name to the empire, and is the abode of the court, was doubtless the centre from which its present civilisation emanated. It appears that the whole group was inhabited long prior to the commencement of its authentic records. Whether first colonised by refugees from the mainlands of China and the Corea, or by a people who came direct from Babel by a north-about route, as old Kæmpfer maintains, can be of little importance. Travellers, like ourselves, may rejoice that, if it was the confusion of tongues which led to the peopling of Japan, the wanderers thither carried with them a full, rich, and pleasant-sounding language, superior to the wretched discordance of their neighbours in China.

It will be going back far enough into the ancient history of Nīpon to say, that 650 years B.C., when Rome was still in its long-clothes, a hero, known as the Divine Warrior, invaded and conquered it from the West. Simmoo, for so he is named, firmly established

a dynasty which has flourished to the present day, in a line of 120 successive male and female monarchs. Of their reigns, far better records exist than the oldest European empire can boast. The early monarchs combined in their person the double offices of high-priest and generalissimo. Chinese historians, with their usual modesty, assert that Jih-pun, as they call Japan, was voluntarily tributary to the Celestial emperor; but it is doubtful whether the imperial air of "subjugation perfected" ever sounded in the ears of Japanese tribute-bearers, unless in the same surreptitious manner as it was once played over a British ambassador in more modern days.

Marco Polo was the first who brought Japan to European ken under the name of Zipangu, and he was at the Chinese capital in 1278, just after Kublai-Khan with his Mongol hordes had overrun China. Envoys had been sent, we are told, to speak plainly to the Emperor of Japan. "Lest," says Kublai-Khan, "that the true state of things be not as yet known and understood in your land, therefore I send to acquaint you with my views. Already philosophers desire to see all mankind one family: I am determined to carry out this principle, even though I should be obliged to do so by force of arms: it is now the business of the King of Nī-pon to decide what course is most agreeable to him." The Mikado, or Nī-pon king, did not enter at all into the philosophical views of his powerful neighbour, and behaved very unlike a tributary monarch. He was assisted in the management of

secular affairs by a Zia-goon, whose office had become hereditary, as a sort of assistant-emperor; and while the Mikado zealously performed his part of praying for the success of his armies, the Zia-goon set a valiant example to the people, who victoriously repelled Kublai-Khan's invading forces. But henceforth the Zia-goon retained the increased powers with which he had been intrusted, and the spiritual and temporal emperors became joint authorities. No sooner were the Chinese and Mongols driven off, than the Japanese retaliated by ranging in their barks as pirates or buccaneers up the coast from Swa-tow to the Shantung promontory. In 1350 we find Chinese records of extraordinary levies and defences to meet the marauders, and expel them from different points in their possession. A century later, the Chinese, with their usual patient endurance of misery, were still suffering from these freebooters. They are described by writers of 1459* as a fierce people, naturally cunning: they would always put on board their ships some of the produce or merchandise of their own country, and also weapons of war; with these they would stand off and on, and so they could parade their goods, and call them "tribute to the crown," until a favourable opportunity offered, when they would take arms and make a wild inroad on the coast. In 1540, these Japanese pirates had become so formidable that the Chinese historian says their extermination was impossible.

* See *Illustrated Notice of Countries beyond the Sea*, a Chinese work translated by T. F. WADE, Esq., Chinese Secretary.

The Portuguese adventurers had already arrived at Ning-po, and, doubtless, met Japanese; and there could not have been much difficulty in the way of an enterprising individual like Fernando Mendez Pinto doing what he says he did, returning in one of their homeward-bound junks, and reaching an island off the south extreme of Kiu-siu, named Kanega-Sima—and then carrying back to his countrymen the first news of the rediscovery of Marco Polo's Zipangu. It is strange that both their reports were hardly believed. Marco Polo has long since had justice done to him, but poor Pinto still labours under the charge of having told sad travellers' tales. Writers generally assert that Japan was accidentally fallen upon by shipwrecked Portuguese; but we are inclined to think that the meeting of the two peoples upon the coasts of China would naturally lead the Portuguese to visit Japan. It is quite possible that, until formal permission to trade was obtained from the Mikado and the Zia-goon, it was necessary to represent the visits as purely accidental.

It is very remarkable that, from 1542, when the Portuguese were first received in Japan, and their friendship, faith, and commerce warmly espoused, until a reaction took place, Japanese hostility to China became still more virulent. Whilst the sainted Xavier and his zealous successors were winning in Nīpon more than a million souls to the fold of their heavenly Master, the race they found so tractable was carrying fire and sword into the opposite provinces of China.

It was only when the active persecution of the Christians and Portuguese commenced that China found peace.

The records of the courage and daring of these Japanese Vikings read like those of the Danish invaders of Britain. "In 1552, the Japanese vessels," says the *Chronicle*, "hundreds in number, covered the seas, and spread terror along the coasts of China for many thousands of *li*." * Shanghai, Keang-yin, on the great river, and Shapoo, were sacked. In 1553 they pillaged Soo-chow-foo, Chinu-keang-foo, and the Island of Tsing-ming in the entrance of the Yang-tsi. In 1554 they waxed still more bold; their vessels arrived in great numbers; and the leaders of each division (like Cortes in Mexico) fired their barks as they landed in a country they intended to conquer. Hang-chow-foo soon fell, and they appear to have sacked the entire country situated between the Yang-tsi and Ning-po rivers, and as far back as Kang-chow, Soo-chow, and Nankin! At Nankin, being too far from their base, they were defeated; but it is surprising to learn from the accounts given of this affair, that these bodies of buccaneers seldom exceeded sixty or seventy in number. Yet these small bands often defeated forces ten times more numerous, and carried fortified or walled cities by stratagem or escalade. One body of 200 Japanese actually, during a period of fifty days, ravaged three prefectures, any of them as large as an English county, "killing and capturing an

* A *li* is about the third of a mile.

incalculable number of people," says the *Chronicle*. These war-parties were detachments from the main body of buccaneers, who, to the number of twenty thousand, occupied places of security from Woosung to Shapoo, and thence round by Ning-po to Tski-ki, places all easily recognised on a map by those who are cognisant of the British operations in China. As late as 1575, Chusan was in the hands of the Japanese; in 1579 the Pescadores, in Formosa Channel, Tien-pak in Quang-tung, and some places in Fuh-kien, fell to them, and great was the misery of the sea-board dwellers of the Flowery Land.

"It was the custom of the barbarians of Japan to divide their force into three divisions. The van, composed of their stoutest men, and their rear-guard of the like, in the centre the brave and cowardly were ranged alternately. They rose at cock-crow, and fed on the ground—this over, the chief, from a position above them, read the orders for the day, detailing their duties, telling off the different companies, and pointing out the place for their foray that day. The companies did not consist of more than thirty men each, and moved at a distance of two-thirds of a mile from each other. At a blast from a conch-shell, the nearest company closed to give support to the one that had given the signal. Skirmishers in twos or threes moved about armed only with swords. Towards evening the force reassembled, and every one gave up his spoil, none daring to retain it. The chief then made a partition in just proportion to those that had contributed to the

day's success. They were addicted to drunkenness and debauchery, and usually set fire to places they had sacked, and escaped in the alarm thereby awakened. Every precaution against treachery or surprise was closely observed. They marched in single file, some distance apart, but in slow pace, and in such good order that the imperial troops could seldom take them at a disadvantage. Their powers of endurance were very great, and they marched vast distances without apparent fatigue. In action against artillery or archers, they received the first fire, and then rushed in to close quarters. They were adepts in all the stratagems of war, and, though brave, used strange means to deceive the Chinese, and effect their end at as slight a loss to themselves as possible. Severe to prisoners made in battle, they were nevertheless so kind to the people in the vicinity of their resorts, that they were kept fully informed of all hostile movements against them. Fighting upon the water was not their forte," adds the Chinese annalist, and then naïvely says, "The bulwarks of their ships were all covered with cushions, which they damped to render them proof against fire. In some actions, as soon as they came to close quarters, they boarded with rapidity; their onset was terrible as the thunder, and those on board were scattered like the wind." *

In spite, however, of the state of constant hostility between the two races, there was a nominal peace be-

* *Annals of the Art of War*; an historical work in 300 volumes, extracts of which have been translated by T. F. WADE, Esq.

tween the two governments directly the Ming dynasty was re-established, and a legalised commerce upon a stipulated scale was allowed. A work entitled *Records of Things seen and heard*, published in China, gives much accurate information about the habits and customs of the Japanese, besides some rather involved geographical information. We gather, however, what is tolerably correct, that a voyage of forty watches' duration (eighty hours) will carry a ship from the island of Pootoo in the Chusan group to the heights of Changki (Nangasaki) in Japan, provided she steer an east course*; and the author adds, that where the winds and currents are so perverse, and there are so many dangers from storms and sea, it is very difficult to maintain one course, and that the voyage is altogether extremely hazardous. Whereupon he incontinently goes off into the poetic vein, and gives utterance to the following rhyme—

"Jeh-pun háu ho
Wu-tau nán kwo!"

which being interpreted by our friend Mr Wade, means,

"Goodly are the wares of Nīpon,
But the isles of Gotto are hard to pass!" *

It is possible some of our skippers, in dull-sailing merchant-ships, may have reason to think so too, in the good time coming.

In the year 1579 terrible times dawned on Japan.

* The Gotto Isles lie a short distance N.W. of Nangasaki; they would be a lee-shore to a junk in the S.E. monsoon, if to leeward of her port.

The Portuguese had apparently worked marvels in Christianising the people. The great Xavier, having built fifty churches, and baptised as his own share thirty thousand natives, became so satisfied with the spiritual safety of his Japanese, that he had quitted the country, despairing of winning there the crown of martyrdom, which he soon found upon the inhospitable coast of Southern China. About this time the Zia-goon, having quelled some intestine troubles, caused by various ambitious nobles, secured to himself greater power than he had hitherto enjoyed as the secular monarch. He adopted as his successor Taiko-sama, who, on the death of his benefactor, gave short shrift to all the disaffected princes and nobles in the land; and, aided by a powerful army, would have won a name as the conqueror of the Corea, had he not rendered himself still more remarkable by his edicts against Christianity. At first Taiko promised fair; but the Jesuits' refusal to baptise him because he would not give up his harem—the Portuguese captain's disregard of the order to take his ship to Taiko's residence for examination—the answer of the Spaniard, who, when asked by the Prince, "How is it that your king has managed to possess himself of half the world?" said, "He sends priests to win the people; his troops then are sent to join the native Christians, and the conquest is easy"—might naturally excite alarm for his own authority and independence, and make him swear, as tradition has it, "that not a priest should be left alive in his dominions!" On 25th June 1587, the first edict for the banishment of the Catholic

missionaries was issued. Taiko, by way, it is said, of getting rid of his disobedient subjects, sent large armies of Christians to the Corea, where they were victorious, though their losses were very great. In 1596 the edict was renewed against Christians; again all missionaries were ordered to quit the country. They disobeyed for the most part; and on the 5th February 1597, twenty-three rebellious priests suffered death in Nangasaki, and were duly canonised by Pope Urban VIII. in 1627. Taiko-sama's warrant has been preserved, and says, "I have condemned these prisoners to death for having come from the Philippines to Japan under the pretended title of ambassadors, and for having persisted in my lands without my permission, and preached the Christian religion against my decree. I order and wish that they be crucified in my city of Nangasaki!"

CHAPTER VI.

In the following year, 1589, Taiko-sama died, and a usurper seized his throne. The Christians fancied all danger to be past, and the enormous profits of trade compensated for the loss of certain religious privileges. Kæmpfer, who is a very sober-minded writer, assures us that the Portuguese exported from Japan three hundred tons of gold per annum for a considerable period; and that when, through the hostility of the Japanese, and the pertinacious competition of the Dutch, their prosperity was on the decline, their export of silver alone in the three last years amounted to the enormous sum of 5,637,000 taels, representing nearly two millions sterling in the present day, but twice as much at that time. The tolerant conduct at first of the successor of Taiko-sama might have been dictated by necessity or policy; but his suspicions of the Portuguese and Spanish missionaries were either fomented or aroused into activity by support from the subjects of Protestant powers of Europe. Their arrival in Japan happened in so strange a manner, that the hand of Providence seems apparent in a course of events which prevented Roman Catholicism from taking firm root, where its influence

might have entirely altered the present condition of Eastern Asia.

"In the year of our Lord God 1598," says the original account in dear delicious old Purchas, "Peter Vanderbaeg and Hans Vanderguck, chiefs of the Dutch Indian Company, made ready a fleet of five Hollanders to traffic unto the Indies. Tempted by the success of the Portuguese, the Dutch desired to enter upon the trade of those regions in spite of the hostility of the Dons, the bulls of the Pope, or the fires of the Inquisition. The admiral was stout Master Jacque Mahay, in the good ship Erasmus." From the pilot of this proud argosy, we have, in his letters to his wife, a faithful and touching record of the voyage, of which we will give a brief sketch.

William Adams was born "in Gillingham, two miles from Rochester and one mile from Chatham, where the Queen's ships do lie;" and he calls upon us to remember that he is thereby "a Kentish-man." "I was," he says, "from the age of twelve brought up in Limehouse near London, being 'prentice twelve years to one master, Nicolas Diggins, and have served in the place of master and pilot in her majesty's ships, and about eleven or twelve years served the Worshipful Company of Barbary Merchants, until the Indian traffic from Holland began, in which Indian traffic I was desirous to make a little experience of the small knowledge which God hath given me."

The fleet in which Will Adams was embarked, sailed from the Texel on the 24th June 1598. Before they

reached the equator sickness broke out, and they touched for refreshment on the coast of Guinea — a strong argument in favour of the late Premier's assertion as to the wonderful salubrity of that delightful naval station, and one which we freely place at his Lordship's disposal for the next annual motion of Mr Hutt, against the immolation of a certain number of Christian officers and men to save about an equal number of negroes. However, in spite of the coast of Guinea, Admiral Jacque Mahay and many more died there before the fleet again sailed. In April 1599 they reached the Straits of Magellan, having decided that they should go to the Indies by way of the South Seas, to make, no doubt, those "experiences" for which bold Will Adams had such a craving. Cold, hunger, and sickness pressed heavily upon the poor Dutchmen; and when, by dint of perseverance and skill, the solitary ship Erasmus reached Moka on the coast of Chili, the Spaniards were ready to slay and entrap them on every opportunity. After waiting until November 1599 for her consorts, only one vessel joined at the rendezvous, and she was piloted by Will Adams's very good friend and countryman, "one Timothy Shotten, who had been with Master Thomas Cavendish in his voyage round the world." Two of the fleet, it was conjectured, had sunk at sea, and another was known to have fallen into the hands of the Spaniards. These same gentry suddenly one day set upon the captain of the Erasmus, who was on shore purchasing supplies for his famishing crew, and besides slaying him and "my poor

brother Thomas Adams," says Will in his letter, "they left scarce so many men whole as could weigh our anchor." The consort likewise lost her captain and twenty-seven men killed in another affair. Yet the resolute survivors, having appointed captains to their vessels, "held a council as to what they should do to make their voyage most profitable. At last it was resolved to go for Japan; for, by the report of Derrick Gerritson, who had been there with the Portugals, woollen cloth was in great estimation in that island; and we gathered, by reason that the Malaccas and the most part of the East Indies were hot countries, woollen cloths would not be much accepted. Therefore it was we all agreed to go to Japan."

Gallant fellows, decimated by disease and an active enemy; there is something very fine in their resolve to push across that great, and then but little-known sea—not in flight, not in abandonment of their enterprise, but to find a market for their woollens, which undoubtedly, as they appear to have somewhat tardily discovered, would have been a drug in the Indian market. On 29th November 1599, these two stout Hollanders, piloted by Will Adams and Timothy Shotten, bore up before the south-east trade-wind on their long and lonely voyage. Nothing can give a clearer idea of their weary journey than the following entry in the narrative:—"The wind continued good for *divers months!*" They cross the equator; we follow them through island channels, where eight men are killed and eaten by the natives; we see them as at last they

approach the western limit of the great South Sea. Storm and angry seas await them as they come nigh Japan; and on the 24th February the Erasmus parts from her consort. Poor Timothy Shotten! he and his charge succumbed at last. Nevertheless the Erasmus still did her best—still directed her course for Japan. "The four-and-twentieth day of March we saw an island called 'Una Colonna,' at which time many of our men were sick again, and divers dead. Great was the misery we were in, having no more than nine or ten men able to go or creep upon their knees; our captain and all the rest looking every hour to die. But on the 11th April 1600, we saw the high land of Japan near unto Bungo; at which time there were no more than five men of us able to go. The 12th April we came hard to Bungo, where many country barks came aboard us, the people whereof we willingly let come, having no force to resist them; and at this place we came to an anchor."

The Japanese Tai-koon, or executive emperor, happened at the time to be at Oyaaka, the seaport of the spiritual capital; and when the circumstance of the arrival of other than a Portuguese or Spanish vessel was reported to him, he ordered the pilot, Master Adams, and one of the mariners, to be brought before him; the more so, doubtless, as the Portuguese represented the character of these new arrivals in anything but an amiable light; "for," says the Englishman's letter, "after we had been there (in Bungo) from five to six days, a Portugal Jesuit, with other Portugals,

and some Japanese that were Christians, came from a place called Nangasaki; which was ill for us, the Portugals being our mortal enemies, who reported that we were pirates, and were not in the way of merchandising." As crucifixion was the penalty of this crime, and poor Adams and his companion were not aware that the other charge which was made against them, of being heretics, was rather a merit than otherwise with the rulers of Japan, it was natural that they took a tender leave of their sick captain and shipmates; and then adds the stanch old sailor, "I commended myself into *His* hands that had preserved me from so many perils on the sea."

In the presence of the emperor he spoke up manfully. "I showed him," says Will Adams, "the name of our country, and that our land had long sought out the East Indies;" and after explaining the purely mercantile purpose of their voyage, the king asked whether our country had wars? I answered him, "Yea; with the Spaniards and Portuguese, being at peace with all other nations." Well spoken, Will Adams! that was thy best and surest defence.

From what we have seen of Taiko-sama's dealings with the Christians, we may conclude that his successor would see without regret the arrival of strangers of a different religion, who, though worn out with suffering, and with the prospect of immediate death before them, openly avowed their hostility to the subjects of those powerful monarchs of Spain and Portugal, of whose vast resources, wealth, and ambition he had

heard so much. It was, however, some time before the resolute Englishman was relieved from suspense as to his own fate. Nine-and-thirty long days of anxiety were passed in prison, the emperor having in the mean time ordered the ship to be brought up to Oyaaka; and during all that time the Jesuits and Portugals used their utmost endeavours to have the crew of the poor Erasmus treated as thieves and robbers, and saying, "that if justice was executed upon us, it would terrify the rest of our nation from coming there any more; and," continues Adams, "to this intent they daily sued to his majesty to cut us off." But the pagan was more humane than the Christian; for, "praised be God for ever and ever!" ejaculated the saved sailor, "the emperor answered them, that because their two countries were at war, was no reason why, to please Portugals, he should slay Dutch and Englishmen!" and forthwith Will Adams and his companion were liberated, and sent to their ship and shipmates. They saluted each other with much shedding of tears, for all on board had been informed that Adams and his comrade had long since been executed. Bright days now smiled upon the sorely-tried Dutchmen and their honest pilot; they were given everything they needed, treated most kindly, but they and their stout bark were never again to leave Japan. The Erasmus was ordered to the city of Yedo, then, as now, the capital of the Tai-koon, as Miaco was that of the Mikado. Will Adams's merits were so appreciated at court that he eventually obtained great influ-

ence. When, in 1609, the next Dutch ships arrived in Japan to act hostilely against the Portuguese, they found the Japanese government very well disposed towards them, and considerable privileges, as well as the port of Firando, were conceded to them, through the good offices of William Adams. Though he individually behaved with forbearance to the Portuguese, and, as he assures us, returned good for their evil, the Dutch had no such intention; and it is certain that, in introducing the Hollander to the commerce of Japan, our Englishman struck the deathblow to Portuguese interests there. By the Dutch ships Will Adams sent the interesting letters we have quoted, and at last, as he desired, stimulated his countrymen to enter upon the same remunerative trade. He had been thirteen years in Japan, when at last he learnt that a ship bearing the red cross of England had reached Firando.

She was the Clove of London, belonging to the East India Company (then in its infancy), and commanded by Captain John Saris, furnished with a letter from King James I., and suitable presents to the emperor. The good ship Clove had pushed to sea from the Thames on April 18th, 1611, and reached Firando on the 11th of June 1613, two years having been profitably spent in trading on the way, as ships were wont to do in those days. Adams was then at Yedo, and was immediately sent for by the Prince of Firando, who, in the mean time, treated the newly-arrived Englishmen with marked attention. On the

29th July 1613, poor Will Adams arrived, and greeted his long-expected countrymen; thirteen weary years he had looked forward hopefully, and at last the old man's prayer was granted. Early in August, Captain Saris, William Adams, and ten Englishmen, started for Yedo, bearing the royal letter and presents. The dignified bearing of Saris and the influence of Adams soon obtained from the emperor, or Tai-koon, a favourable treaty,* granting to England the most important privileges that had ever been conceded by Japan to a foreign power. Saris carried back a letter likewise from the Tai-koon Tyeyas, in which he says he especially desires the friendship of James I., promises that his subjects shall be "heartily welcome," applauds

* TREATY CONCLUDED BETWEEN THE EMPEROR OF JAPAN AND KING JAMES OF GREAT BRITAIN.—*August* 1613.

"ART. 1.—We give free license to the subjects of the King of Great Britain—viz. Sir Thomas Smith, Governor, and the Company of the East India merchants and adventurers—for ever safely to come into any of our ports of our empire of Japan, with their ships and merchandise, without any hindrance to them or their goods; and to abide, buy, sell, and barter, according to their own manner with all nations; to tarry here as long as they think good, and to depart at their pleasure.

"ART. 2.—We grant unto them freedom of custom for all such merchandises as either now they have brought, or hereafter shall bring into our kingdoms, or shall from hence transport to any foreign part; and do authorise those ships that hereafter shall arrive and come from England to proceed to present sale of their commodities, without further coming or sending up to our court.

"ART. 3.—If any of their ships shall happen to be in danger of shipwreck, we will that our subjects not only assist them, but that such part of ship or goods as shall be saved be returned to their captain or merchant or their assigns. And that they shall or may build one house

much their worthiness and skill as navigators, and promises that in their "honourable enterprises of discoveries and merchandising, they shall find the said Tai-koon further them according to their desires."

The year 1613 saw the English factory established (as was the Dutch) at Firando. The English, from political reasons, very soon withdrew, and so avoided the troubles that overtook the other European residents in Japan. It is worthy of note that in the following year the persecution of the priests and their converts recommenced with renewed vigour, and ended, as I said before, in the expulsion of the Portuguese, and then the close imprisonment of the Dutch to the Island

or more for themselves in any part of our empire where they shall think fittest, and at their pleasure.

"ART. 4.—If any of the English merchants or others shall depart this life within our dominions, the goods of the deceased shall remain at the disposal of the cape merchant, and that all offences committed by them shall be punished by the said cape merchant according to his discretion; and our laws to take no hold of their persons or goods.

"ART. 5.—We will that ye our subjects trading with them for any of their commodities, pay them for the same, according to agreement, without delay, or return their wares again unto them.

"ART. 6.—For such commodities as they have now brought or shall hereafter bring, fitting for service and proper use, we will that no arrest be made thereof; but that the price be made with the cape merchant, according as they may sell to others, and present payment upon the delivery of the goods.

"ART. 7.—If in discovery of other countries for trade, and return of their ships, they shall need men or victuals, we will that ye our subjects furnish them for their money as their need shall require.

"ART. 8.—And that without other passport, they shall and may set out upon the discovery of Jesso or any other part in or about our empire."

of Decima, where they have submitted to be considered anything but Christians.

In 1637 the great interdict was published, of which one paragraph runs thus :—"No Japanese ship or boat whatever, nor any native of Japan, shall presume to go out of the country; and who acts contrary to this shall be put to death, and the ship and goods shall be forfeited; and all Japanese who return from abroad shall be put to death."

From that time their vessels have never voluntarily left the coasts of Japan, though many a ship-load of poor wretches has drifted away in storms, and reached some foreign land. But when, as once or twice was done, Christian ships carried back these men to Japan, they have been sternly refused admittance. The American Government have, however, of late years, wrought a change in the law on this point, and more than one Japanese seaman now, who has against his will been blown away to the Sandwich Islands or the American continent, has been restored to his country.

When, in 1673, the East India Company attempted to reoccupy their former factory, there was no Will Adams to be their advocate with the emperor. The selfish Dutchmen did not choose to remember that they owed their own introduction to Japan to the influence of the English sailor. Although the English were civilly treated, yet, at the instigation of the Dutch, our trade was refused, because our then reigning king (Charles II.) was married to a daughter of the King of Portugal! The Dutch remained undisputed

masters of the field until Sir Stamford Raffles made two attempts to break down their monopoly, but failed. After that no nation except Russia, whose ends are purely political, gave Japan further notice until 1831. In that year, American attention was directed to the islands, and it was thought that a good plea for introducing America to their notice in a kindly way might be found in sending back some shipwrecked Japanese sailors. They received a very uncivil welcome, and, repelled with violence, the ship Morrison desisted from her purpose. But not so the persevering nation that had sent her forth! If smaller ships did not succeed, bigger ships might; so the huge two-decker Columbus, of 90 guns, and the corvette Vincennes, were sent. This time, to speak the truth honestly, America wanted intercourse for commercial and political purposes with Japan. She then intended to be very shortly on the shores of the Pacific, and this great force ought to have shown the Japanese that Brother Jonathan was in earnest. But the Taikoon still held out. No trade except with Holland was still his motto; and America, being in no immediate hurry, was patient but watchful. In 1849 the Japanese were foolish enough to retain some American seamen shipwrecked upon the coast. The U. S. ship Preble, Captain Glynn, forthwith dropped in and gave them such a shaking that they gladly liberated the citizens of the United States. Then a very efficient officer and admirable squadron were sent from America in 1853, to bring about by moral force some specific terms regu-

lating the intercourse of the two countries. Commodore Perry, in his voluminous work, has so recently told us what means he employed to this end, that we need say no more than that he fully succeeded. The treaty he obtained in itself is no great thing; but it was the small end of the wedge; and, after all, sailors cannot be expected to finesse in diplomacy. Hardly was the ink dry with which this treaty was signed, when the lamentable war with Russia broke out, and the Japanese found their islands, creeks, and inland seas used for a game of hide-and-seek played by the Russian and Allied squadrons. Then everybody wanted treaties with the Japanese; and in apparently a waggish humour, they gave a British admiral one in 1854, which must ever stand unique amongst such documents.

CHAPTER VII.

A STORM is at all times a scene replete with the sublime and beautiful, heightened in interest, to the sailor who is upon the sea at such a time, by the anxiety incident to the charge of his frail home, and the many lives dependent on his judgment and energy. But off an almost unknown coast, whose lofty and rugged line promised no lack of off-lying rocks, with the want of sea-room from the many islands and reefs surrounding us, it was the last thing we could have desired; but having come, we had only to do our best to meet the difficulties of our position. The Furious evidently thought so too, as she struggled against the wind, sea, and current that rushed down upon us as we neared the narrows of Vancouver's Strait. There was a glorious "abandon" about the tight frigate as she flung herself into the sea, and cut her way through the angry barrier which the storm made in her path, and rose with a spring, throwing off the foam and spray from her bows, which perhaps was more appreciated by the crew of the Furious than by her distinguished passengers, who, though capital sailors, would in these

frolicsome moments occasionally express a preference for the shore, which was not to be wondered at.

There were certain symptoms about the gale now setting in, which betokened it was not a fair hard north-east breeze, nor one against which even a powerful vessel might struggle. There was far too much moisture, mist, and cloud, with a falling barometer, for that.

As we approached Cape Satanomi-saki, the sky and sea looked so wild that it was evident the sooner we reached a sheltered anchorage the better. The first impulse was to run up the gulf of Kago-Sima, then well open to the north of us; but it was totally unsurveyed, and if this gale veered into a typhoon or circular storm, we should find ourselves in an awkward predicament: the other resource was to find an anchorage close to and under the lee of the extreme end of the Japan group, and remain there while the storm raged from the direction of the Pacific, and, directly it veered so as to blow from the Chinese Sea, to dash out and do our best.

The long projecting tongue of high land forming the south extreme of Kiu-siu was steadily approached. Within a mile of the rocks there were no ordinary soundings to be obtained—closer still we went, keeping a sharp look-out for sunken rocks, many of which would peep out of the smooth-heaving sea, rear their weed-crowned heads as if to warn us off, and then sink again with a gurgle and whirl of foam. Down through valley and glen rushed fierce squalls of winds

(or "willywhaws," as sailors call them), which whisked the water into a sheet of foam, and made the tall ship reel like a cockle-boat. At last, close to the rocks, we obtained bottom in thirty fathom ; but before the anchor could be let go it diminished to fifteen ; we had then barely room to swing clear of the breakers. Thankful to have found a good anchorage within three-quarters of a mile of the cape, we lost no time in making preparation for the gale which was so likely to veer to the south-west, and then what was now a friendly shelter would be a deadly lee-shore. Towards evening the Retribution and yacht Emperor were to be seen to the westward, looking for an anchorage likewise. When they sighted us their course was altered, and they eventually anchored near. Throughout the night the weather continued to look still more ugly and threatening, and the quicksilver in the barometer was what we call "pumping," rising and falling with an irregular undecided action. In all the squadron the sharpest look-out was kept, and, with the steam up, we were ready to start at a moment's warning ; for, if surprised by a typhoon in our position, its resistless rush and power would throw us on the rocks in spite of engines and anchors.

The coast upon the western side of Cape Satanomisaki or Tchichakoff, though bold, is not precipitous above the water-line ; it consists of hills varying from one to two thousand feet in altitude, with rounded outlines covered to their summits with verdure. In all the valleys, and upon the sheltered hill-sides, many

trees were seen, mostly pines; and there was a considerable amount of terrace cultivation. In every cove there nestled a hamlet, and out of almost every copse of wood peeped the thatch of a Japanese cottage. Not a mile from our ship there was a village of some size, situated in a little bay, across the entrance of which the breakers now formed a barrier; and on its shingly beach we observed many boats hauled up, either on account of the weather, or for fear of the European ships that had so strangely visited their secluded haunts. The night came on dark and rainy, with no lack of wind; but through the storm we were amused to see numerous watch-fires lighted up along the coast, showing that the inhabitants were on the look-out. The effect of the flames against the wild sky heightened materially the strangeness of the scenery. The 7th August brought no decided change of wind, and one might have been tempted to push out and fight the gale, but our limited quantity of coal rendered it necessary to husband the store, in order that our return to Shanghai might be insured.

Some vague idea that coal was procurable in Japanese ports, because coal-veins abound in Japan, had prevented any depôt being formed at Nangasaki for the service of the Ambassador, and even at Shanghai it was only obstinate perseverance that enabled us to procure as much for the Furious as she could carry.

In the afternoon a heavy ground-swell, coming in from the south-east, indicated that the gale in the offing was veering, and soon after the vessels were

canted across the wind by a strong current setting into the Pacific Ocean from the Sea of China. This current, running counter to the gale still blowing, occasioned a frightful sea in the narrows between the Cape and Take-sima Island. It was remarkable that few, if any, sea-birds were seen in our sheltered position, whither, in such weather, birds, if numerous, would naturally fly; but this had been noticed by early navigators, and has not been accounted for. Stormy-petrels, and others of that strong-winged class, we occasionally saw. Can it be that the exceedingly stormy nature of the seas around Japan force the common gull, and other such birds, to seek calmer spots to feed and breed in? A story is told by either Siebold or Kæmpfer, that on one occasion the Governor-general of Batavia sent a cassowary to the Emperor through the factory of Nangasaki. It was returned, after some months' trial, with a message that it was "a big ugly bird, that ate a great deal and did no work, and that nothing so useless could be tolerated in Japan." Perhaps the sea-birds are excluded on the same utilitarian principle. A huge whale enlivened the scene by joining the squadron; and although it did not precisely anchor, it did the next wisest thing —it dodged about under the lee of the cape, blowing away, and waiting for better weather. Whales seem to suffer much in bad weather, as they must rise to the surface to breathe, and are consequently buffeted by waves as if they were so many rocks; but Providence, in its wisdom, has endowed these creatures with

wonderful sagacity, shown in running for shelter during storms. Throughout the Pacific Ocean, its thousand isles and reefs afford them havens; and in the polar seas the great belts of pack-ice enclose calm spaces wherein the whale finds shelter.

Occasionally through the wild-drifting clouds we caught glimpses of the remarkable volcanic cone of Horner Peak, and of many picturesque points in Kagosima Gulf; then, far in the interior, lofty mountains would stalk like ghosts out of their shrouds of storm-cloud, look upon us for a moment, and disappear, as with a roar the hurricane would burst out afresh, enveloping everything in mist, rain, and sea-drift again.

Wilder night we have seldom seen than that of this Saturday. The black inhospitable coast, visible through all the storm in consequence of its close proximity, the angry sky, the roar of the gale, the lash of the breakers, which with phosphoric light brought out into startling relief every hidden danger and rocky buttress then close to us; and the sweep of the strait, where sea and wind were doing their worst, and that worst fast approaching us,—all formed a scene of wildest grandeur. One could not help thinking how feebly pen and pencil would convey, to those who have never witnessed them, an idea of such sights as these.

There is a sad tale of heroism told of some who landed on this shore. In the year 1707, the zeal of a Roman Catholic missionary in the Philippines was

roused by the accounts of the martyrs who had perished in Japan and China. The Abbé Sidotti longed to win for himself a like crown of immortality, and, brave as he was good and enthusiastic, he determined upon throwing himself alone into Japan, with the hope of affording comfort to the persecuted remnant of Christians then said still to exist in Kiu-siu. For two years he studied Japanese at Manilla, where, as well as at Macao and Formosa, Japanese were to be found hopelessly cut off from their mother country. All the brave Sidotti asked was to be carried in a vessel to Japan, and secretly landed; for the rest, he put his trust in God's mercy. The governor of the Philippines yielded to his prayer. One evening in October 1769, a foreign bark approaches the coast near where the British squadron is now anchored. We see her in the dim light heave to, and at midnight a boat is stealthily rowed to the beach; in it we see the abbé, a veritable missionary indeed. He and a dozen companions disembark; they kneel in prayer before they part from the good priest; their hearts are touched—they will not leave him alone to meet the dangers and certain death which await the Christian intruder in Japan. No! by Santiago, no! Spain had not then sunk so low; and it is said that many of those who accompanied the abbé to the shore forsook all and followed this worthy successor of the Apostles. They exchanged their last farewells, and the devoted party watch the boat regain the ship which speeds on her homeward course, then calmly and resolutely they turn on their

chosen way. They pass into the shade of the adjoining valley, but never more are heard of! They doubtless soon fell victims to their zeal for their faith, and the sword of the would-be exterminator of their creed was their sharp and short bridge to another and a better world; but assuredly, so long as men shall hold dear human courage and devotion in what they believe to be a righteous cause, will the memory of the Abbé Sidotti and his companions be cherished. Towards morning an unnatural lull in the gale warned us to be off. The shrill pipe of the boatswain went instantly, the cable was rattled in as fast as possible, the steam got up, anchors stowed, and we started to fight our way into the Pacific. Down came the gale from the south. Whew! the good ship reels again to it, then dashes on, as the engines begin to give her momentum. The centre of the storm was to the west of us, and it was certain we could not now get too soon to sea; so, at every risk, we *shaved* round the breakers of Cape Satanomi, and, after two hours' hard tussle, felt we could again laugh at the storm. The ship's head was put to the east, and away like a seagull we flew. Those who had had the anxiety and watching of the previous twenty-four hours, felt now that it might blow as hard as it pleased, and could throw themselves down to rest. Noon of the 8th August found the Furious alone, kicking up her heels in a most unladylike manner, going eleven knots under treble-reefed topsails, the sky clear and bright, with a heavy following sea.

The Retribution and Furious, being of that marvellous class called paddle-wheel steam-frigate, were so crank that neither could have fought a main-deck gun in a breeze, and the only objects attained by our main-deck ports was first to admit an immense quantity of water, in which the Ambassador's luggage was playfully washing about; and next, to compel the officers to live below in places which, for heat and smell, were little short of the Black Hole of Calcutta.

However, it is folly to growl when growling is of no avail, and one may always go on half-pay if one does not like to go to sea; so let us leave the main-deck and enjoy the rush through the dancing blue seas of the great Pacific. We were now off the Straits of Bungo, which divide Kiu-siu from Sikok Island; and here the lofty coast sheltered us, in a measure, from the full weight of the gale. On we went past both the Bungo and Kino channels, that on either hand bound the island of Sikok, and communicate with that little-known yet extensive sea which is enclosed by that island and those of Kiu-siu and Nī-pon. In our charts it is called the Suwo-nada Sea. Perfectly land-locked, possessing three routes of communication with the external seas, it affords a ready means for the traffic from one part of the Japanese empire to the other; and we learn from the itineraries of the Dutch envoys and others who have passed from Nangasaki to Yedo by the native routes, that this sea is traversed by thousands of barks that could never expose themselves to the gales and heavy seas of the

outer ocean. This Suwo-nada sea is nearly two hundred and forty miles long in an east and west direction, and varies from fifteen to sixty geographical miles in width: it abounds in islands, and affords anchorage throughout. Many great and important cities are situated upon its shores. The principal one, the spiritual capital "Miaco," is easy of access from this same Suwo-nada sea, and, with some dozen others that lie around the rich bay of "Oyaaka," forms the real heart of the Japanese empire.

We naturally longed to enter and open up this region, and trusted that, when Lord Elgin had visited Yedo, time might be found to allow of our returning to China through the Straits of Kino, and traversing the whole of the Suwo-nada.

Hope, however, is not prophecy, and we were doomed to be disappointed, as will hereafter be seen.

Noon of August 9th found us a long, long way from Cape Tchichakoff, a current of nearly two miles and a half per hour having set us away to the eastward, and rather off shore. This was considerably more than we had been prepared for, although we knew that a regular current, exactly like the Atlantic Gulf-stream in character, would be found to be sweeping along the Pacific shores of the Japanese group: its increased velocity, as we experienced it, we fancy arose from the force of the gale from north-east having retarded its action somewhat, and that when the gale ceased, the pent-up waters would naturally rush for some hours with increased velocity in their old direction.

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The Pacific Gulf-stream originates, like the one so well known in our hemisphere, in the warm and shallow enclosed seas about the equator. The China Sea may be said to be its birthplace, at least that southern portion of it enclosed between Malayia, Borneo, and Cochin-China; its course to the northward and eastward may be easily traced by the existence of coral and Saragossa weed; the former especially only exists off the coast of China, within the boundaries of the Gulf-stream's warm current. For instance, on the coast of China no coral is found from Hainau in latitude 20° N. to the northward, but at certain distances varying from fifty to a hundred miles off the coast coral is found, and by this we ascertain that the stream of warm water flows out between Formosa and the island of Luyon, sweeps the eastern coast of the former, embraces the Loo-choo and Linchousen groups, curves along the outer shores of Japan, and thence makes its way to the north, ameliorating the climate of Behring's Straits, and especially that of north-western America.

This Gulf-stream, however, has its attendant evils, for it is the source of those fearful storms which do such an immensity of damage on the coasts of China, and give to Japan so bad a character amongst seamen —the hurricanes of the West Indies and rotatory storms of the North Atlantic, arising from similar causes, are only to be compared to them in character and violence.

The weather rapidly cleared off during the afternoon of the 9th, which was the more welcome as we were

fast nearing a chain of broken and dangerous islands of volcanic origin, named the Briceis or Broken Islands, across and through which the Gulf-stream sets with much violence. Our course was shaped for Cape Idsu, the extreme of a rocky promontory of Nīpon, a little beyond which the volcanic chain extends due south for a hundred and twenty miles. The stars came out bright, and the wind subsided in the early part of the evening, so that there would have been no necessity for more than ordinary watchfulness, had not the barometer, which stood at noon at 29.72, fallen steadily until by midnight it was only 29.25, or a tenth lower than during the worst weather we had yet experienced. There were causes for the condition of the atmosphere and for this fall in the barometer, we have little doubt, for of all the middle watches we have kept we never saw one in which the heavens were so little at rest. It seemed as if the stars were changing their positions for pleasanter places in the heavens. From eleven that night until one in the morning hundreds of them shot from the north-east to the west overhead, their flight being plainly perceptible in an arc of sixty degrees, or thirty degrees on either side of the zenith. A magnificent meteor fell and burst to the N.N.W., exhibiting for a minute the most brilliant blue and orange light. Then mysterious belts of cloud would unexpectedly rise in the north, and pass rapidly over us, to be succeeded as strangely by others from points of the compass ninety degrees apart. The heavens were fairly bewitched, for all this time there was little

or no wind, and the sea was smooth except in the course of the current. Our engines were meantime rattling along, and we were so fast nearing our port of Simoda, that it mattered little what all these mysterious signs might mean. Our own conviction is, that at the time we were remarking these strange things, the storm we had escaped from was sweeping along the northern and western sides of Nīpon, and that the high land of the interior sheltered us from its effects.

As daylight broke on the 10th August, a vigilant look-out was kept for Volcano Island, one of the Broken group, in case the current should have continued to run at its former rate, and carried us in sight of it. Just when a grey mare might have been discernible at half a mile's distance, a peak or conical island was seen rising sharp and clear out of the current-agitated sea—exactly on the bearing Volcano Island might have possibly been seen, though, by our observation, forty miles distant. Thinking at first that it must be the Volcano, and, if so, we were fast nearing the Redfield Rocks—a dangerous reef in this neighbourhood—the course was altered, as a precautionary measure, until sunrise. Presently the peak came out more and more defined, but looked every minute still more distant, until the rising sun revealed to us the fact that it was no island, but the great Peak of Nīpon ; and a glorious panorama of mountain, valley, and headland gradually unrolled itself at its feet.

The Peak of Fusi-hama—the Matchless Mountain, as the Japanese with just pride and affection love to style it—was at this time, as we afterwards discovered by close observation, no less than one hundred and ten miles off, and yet its summit is said to be only twelve thousand feet above the sea.

We neared Cape Idsu, a mountainous promontory, at the extreme end of which the port of Simoda stands; and if the Japanese had expected an invasion of their country by the countrymen of Commodore Perry, they could not have better foiled it than by inducing him to go to such a spot. It was decidedly picturesque, however, and under the effect of a fine unclouded day, with a blue sea sparkling and lashing itself up under the effect of a rattling west wind, the whole scene was one worthy of a painter's skill.

The Retribution and Emperor hove in sight, and we pushed on under a heavy press of sail and steam for Simoda. Early in the afternoon we reached it; and after going right round the bay, and poking into every corner to look for shelter from the ground-swell, we plumped the anchor down, having satisfied ourselves that, however pretty the bay might be, it was no harbour for a ship, and that the Japanese had decidedly weathered the Transatlantic Commodore when they palmed off such a spot upon him as one.

CHAPTER VIII.

THE last person to find fault with a port without good cause should be the seaman who has just reached one, however insecure, after having been tossed and shaken into a jelly by gales of wind in the open sea. On the shortcomings, therefore, of Simoda in all the requirements of a harbour for men-of-war, and much more for mercantile purposes, we shall abstain from dwelling. Its deficiencies were so apparent to Mr Harris, the American Consul-general, that, by treaty with the Japanese, he has resigned it for some safer and more convenient spot. Situated as it is on the extreme of a mountainous promontory which projects into the full sweep of the Pacific Gulf-stream, it is most difficult of access to sailing vessels, and lies in the most active volcanic region in Japan, if not in the world. Within sight of Simoda, the smoking crater of "Vries Volcano" serves as a beacon to remind the inhabitants by how precarious a tenure they exist upon the sea-board of the Idsu promontory. Only four years before our arrival, an earthquake, aided by terrible rollers from the sea, destroyed the town of Simoda and the greater part of its inhabitants. The Russian frigate Diana,

commanded by the present Admiral Count Pontiatine, was at anchor in the harbour at the time. She was wrecked; but her gallant captain and crew were saved to give us this account in graphic language of the horrors of that terrible December morning, and the heroic manner in which they stood to their shattered ship:—

"*H.I.M.S. Diana, in Simoda Harbour, December 23d*, 1854.—Nine o'clock A.M.; light W.S.W. wind; bar. 29.27; ther. 7 deg. R. (47.75 deg. F.); weather clear and agreeable.

"At a quarter past nine, without any previous indication, the shock of an earthquake, which lasted two or three minutes, causing the vessel to shake very much, was felt both on deck and in the cabin. At ten o'clock a large wave was observed entering the bay, and in a few minutes Simoda was inundated, houses and temples swept away, while the junks before the town, forced from their anchorage, were seen floating in every direction, one knocking against another, cracking and sinking. In less than five minutes after this, the water was seen rising and bubbling, as if agitated by a thousand springs, carrying with it loam, straw, and other materials, receding and then returning with tremendous force, and completing the destruction of the town, boats, and junks. Our men were ordered to secure the guns and boats, and to shut the ports. During this short time the bay was covered with thatches and ruins, which had been carried away by the receding waters.

"At a quarter past ten the frigate was observed to drift, when the second anchor was immediately dropped. Notwithstanding this, however, the water, returning with greater velocity than before, forced her a second time from her position. The whole town was now one vast scene of desolation; and out of about one thousand houses, only sixteen were standing. At this time a cloud of vapour was observed over the ruins, and the air was strongly impregnated with sulphurous acid.

"The sudden rising and falling of the water in so narrow a bay gave rise to numerous whirlpools, which caused the frigate to swing round with such rapidity that all on board became giddy. At half-past ten a junk was thrown against her with so much violence that it was smashed to pieces and sunk immediately. Ropes were thrown to the men to save them from drowning; but only two seized them, the rest, rushing into the cabin, chose rather to die than to violate the law of their country which forbids them without permission to go on board a foreign vessel.

"An old woman also, in a small boat, was drifted alongside. She was quite insensible, and her rescue was not effected without several men being exposed to considerable hazard. But their exertions were successful; she soon recovered, and is still living.

"After the frigate had turned once more round, and approached within fifty fathoms of a rock, the whirling of the water became so violent that she was flung from one place to another, and in about thirty minutes turned no less than forty-three times round her anchor. During

this time she was nearly smashed against a rocky island, but fortunately she just cleared it. At a quarter to eleven, when the third anchor was dropped, it had not the effect of keeping her stationary; and when the sea receded, it left her on her side in eight feet of water. While in this position it was impossible to stand, and all endeavoured to crawl to the upper side, fearing the effect of the next rise of the water. This speedily took place, and with great rapidity and violence, forcing them into the midst of the bay, and causing one of the guns to break loose, when it instantly killed one, and wounded several others of the men. Another effect of this rush was manifest in the frigate's keel and rudder, which were now to be seen floating near her. The rising and falling of the water were very great, the depth varying from less than eight to more than forty feet; and these changes, at intervals of about five minutes, continued till noon, when it was discovered that there were thirty inches of water in the hold.

"At this time a perceptible diminution in the frequency and violence of the changes took place, and this opportunity was embraced, and every available effort made, to lessen the influx of water. But scarcely had half an hour elapsed, when, before these operations could have been completed, the rising and falling of the water became more violent than before.

"Between this time and a quarter past two, when the agitation again became much less, the frigate was left four times on her side; and once, while thus laid in only four feet of water, the upheaving of the ground

was so violent as to force her past her anchors (the upper parts of which were visible), and back again to her former position.

"Continuing to decrease in violence and frequency, by three P.M. the agitation of the water, and the motion of the vessel consequent thereon, were very slow. She now floated in twenty-five feet of water, but within her hold it was observed to be rising at the rate of thirty inches per hour. At this time a fresh west wind was blowing; the bar. stood at 29.87, and the ther. was 10°.50 R. (about 55°.63 F.) The bay was covered with ruins, on which men were seen walking; and at four P.M. we began to disentangle the anchors, the chains of which were so twisted that four hours were required to clear one of them.

"During the ensuing night a fresh S.W. wind blew, and the pumps were working twice an hour.

"We had now to obtain the consent of the authorities to our seeking a bay in which to repair the frigate, Simoda not being well adapted for this purpose. After some delay this was granted, and a suitable place was soon selected. Some necessary repairs having previously been made, we weighed anchor on the 13th January, and with a light wind left for the appointed place. The wind soon failed us, we were left drifting towards the breakers, and our position became one of imminent danger. But ere long a gale arose, and after approaching nearer and nearer the shore, all hope being abandoned, twenty fathoms were called out, and the anchor dropped.

"On the 15th and 16th there was less wind, but the water in the frigate rose to such a height that grave fears were entertained as to the possibility of saving her. The Japanese authorities sent a hundred junks to tow her to the bay, and on the 17th all hands were landed. This was not done without great difficulty (on account of the dangerous surf), which was particularly the case with the sick, who, wrapped in sails, had to be dragged through it. Next day (18th) the junks took her in tow, not a single man was on board, and the water already half filled the gun-deck. After proceeding a few miles, a small white cloud appeared, on perceiving which, the Japanese, panic-stricken, cut their ropes and fled. This appeared strange to us, but a storm speedily justified the fears they had manifested. Had they delayed much longer, they would have been in great danger, and not improbably might have shared the fate of the frigate, which forthwith sunk."

The new town of Simoda was being rebuilt when we were there. The ruins of a Japanese city are by no means imposing; wood, thatch, and a small modicum of bricks, constitute the materials generally employed in a country where a man may naturally expect to rebuild his house more than once in a lifetime. The spick-and-span new appearance of whole streets told its own tale; and the appearance of a formidable stone-faced breakwater, erected some feet above high-water mark, and fully thirty feet high, cutting off the pretty vale in which the town was situated from the waters of Simoda Bay, showed in what direction the

greatest danger was anticipated, and whence they had suffered most, during the last dreadful visitation. Yet there was nothing in the appearance of the good folk of Simoda to lead one to suppose they fretted much about earthquakes, rollers from the sea, or the Vries Volcano. Every one looked as happy and free from care as any people could do. The men welcomed us with a good-natured smile, and the women, young or old, seemed as curious to look at us as we were to look at them. Everybody appeared well to do—not a beggar was visible; possibly the earthquake had swept them off. Having described Nangasaki and its bazaar so fully, it would be mere repetition to dwell upon the bazaar of Simoda, further than to say that the articles here produced for sale were superior, and decidedly much cheaper. The restrictions upon direct buying and selling were attended with more inconvenience than at Nangasaki; for, having selected the articles to be purchased, they were carried to a government office, where their value in silver *azibus* (a coin of the country, the value of the third of a dollar) was placed in a scale, whilst we had to pour into the opposite side of the balance an equal weight in Mexican dollars, plus a certain per-centage to meet the expense of re-coining the foreign money. The government officers handed over to us our purchases, and gave the merchant credit for the number of *azibus* due to him. All this machinery is set to work merely to prevent Europeans receiving Japanese money, and to guard against foreign coin being circulated in the country.

Provision has been made in the new treaty that will rid trade of all these nonsensical restrictions. It would be impossible for foreign merchants to trade under such a system, by which it is more than probable that the Japanese merchant is cheated, and that he does not know whether it is by the European or the native officials.

At Simoda, as at Nangasaki, every one seemed eternally to be taking notes of what everybody else was doing. Each Japanese had his breast-pockets full of note-paper, and a convenient writing apparatus stuck in his belt, and everything that was said, done, and even thought, was no doubt faithfully recorded. In Japan, men do not seem to converse with one another, except in formal set speeches; there is no interchange of thought by means of the tongue, but the pen is ever at work noting down their observations of one another. Sometimes we saw men comparing their notes, and grunting assent or dissent from opinions or facts recorded. At first we rather felt this as a system of espionage, but we soon became accustomed to it; and provided every man wrote down what he really saw and heard, it may be more satisfactory in the long-run to have to do with a nation of Captain Cuttles, who have "made a note" of everything, and so have more than their memories to trust to.

The Japanese plan of putting one man in a post of trust, and placing another as a check on him, is, after all, only our red-tape system in a less disguised form. The governor of Simoda has a duplicate in Yedo, who has to take turn and turn about with him in office, so

that the acts of each whilst in authority serve as a check on the other. Then he is accompanied, wherever he goes, by one private and two public reporters, and the latter forward direct to Yedo particulars of all his acts. Their reports are in their turn checked by the counter-statements of the governor and his private secretary. Now compare this with the case of the captain of H.M.S. ——, who requires a ton of coal, or a coil of rope, of the value of perhaps twenty shillings. The captain gives a written order for the purchase to be made, and two merchants must certify that the price asked is a just one, and what is the rate of exchange—to this the governor or a consul must bear witness. The captain next attests that the goods have been received and carried to public account, and this is countersigned by a lieutenant, the master, and another officer, who declare them to be fit for her Majesty's service. The vendor appends his signature as a receipt, and this has to be witnessed. Then a statement of what quantity of the same stores remained in the ship when the purchase was made, and why more were required, has to be signed by the captain and the officer in charge of them. Lastly, these documents are forwarded to the Commander-in-Chief, who signs and forwards them to the Accountant-general of the Navy. So to guarantee the honest expenditure, on behalf of the public, of twenty shillings, the names of twelve witnesses are requisite, and the papers being in triplicate, six-and-thirty signatures require to be attached, and lodged in office!

Whatever may be the demerits of Simoda as a port for shipping, no one can deny it is an exceedingly picturesque spot, replete with glorious combinations of turf-clad valley and wooded crag, sharp-cut cliff and rocky cove, mountain and richly-cultivated plain. One most romantic-looking corner in this picture is somewhat marred by a stiff white flagstaff and the American ensign. Forgive me, oh my American cousins! for saying that Nature is not improved by stripes of red-and-white bunting sprinkled with stars. From this corner of Simoda Bay the Consul-general of the United States made his appearance, and most warmly we welcomed a gentleman whose earnest endeavours and great personal sacrifices are likely to bring about such vast changes in the future history of Japan. Mr Harris seemed a man well fitted to be the pioneer of the energetic Republic of North America. Earnest, enthusiastic, and clever, he is gifted with that self-reliance which carries his countrymen over difficulties, whilst we more methodical slow-coaches sit down and reason upon them until the time for action is past. He has had great success in acquiring for himself the friendship and confidence of the people and officials of this jealous and exclusive empire. He had visited, with both eyes open and a liberal spirit, most parts of the world—and, happy man, the world had neither hardened his heart nor blunted his power of appreciating the good and beautiful wherever it might exist. It was refreshing to hear his warm and sincere eulogiums of the Japanese people, though he did not go

the length of attributing to them every transcendent virtue. He expressed a kindly and natural anxiety about the long course of misery and revolution that will most probably ensue, when the introduction of European civilisation and a different creed shall break down, and will not, at any rate at first, supply the place of an existing system, which, so far as the material wants of the people are concerned, looks so perfect. The Consul had been much in our colonies and dependencies, and understood well the Asiatic character: he had been in Lucknow when still independent, and had feasted with its sensual monarch and princes; he had shared in Otaheitian *kolu-holus* or native dances, and knew the missionaries and missionary-*eaters* of New Zealand. His admission to Japan with his secretary and interpreter, Mr Hewskin, was the result of the treaty obtained by Commodore Perry, which I have already mentioned. Having promised that an American consul should be permitted to reside at Simoda, the Japanese did not object when a man-of-war landed them, and sailed away; but they placed the consulate on the opposite side of the bay to that on which the town was situated, and then watched the Americans closely. Mr Hewskin, who was by birth a native of Holland, had acquired a knowledge of the Japanese language; and as many of the natives speak Dutch, good feeling was promoted by an interchange of little acts of kindness and consideration. Time wore at first very heavily with the two residents, and many long months passed before the face of a European gladdened

their sight. Meantime the Dutch duly reported at Nangasaki, and, for purposes of their own, exaggerated the force and misrepresented the objects of the Allies in China. The Dutch superintendent, Mr Donker Curtius, thought to make great capital out of the alarm thus created in Japan, and obtain fresh concessions for Holland by a new treaty of commerce, and so maintain for her that priority of position which her exclusive monopoly for two centuries perhaps persuaded him she had a right to. Mr Harris, at the same time, was desirous to obtain like advantages for America; and in the autumn of 1857, by way of playing off one against the other, the two diplomatists were allowed to proceed to Yedo, there to make their respective representations.

It was when this journey was undertaken that Mr Harris saw the motive of the Japanese in placing his countrymen at Simoda; for such was the truly Alpine nature of the country traversed before he reached the Gulf of Yedo, that any attempt of the Americans to penetrate by force into the interior must have resulted in the destruction of those who engaged in such a project. During the six months the Consul was in Yedo, nothing could exceed the kindness and care he experienced. He lived at the imperial charge, special dishes were often sent him from the palace, and when from some cause there was an alarm in the city, a strong guard was sent to patrol the neighbourhood of his abode. It will be remembered that we learnt at Nangasaki that both Dutch

and American commissioners had eventually left Yedo without obtaining any formally-signed treaty. Disappointed and worn out by his long and anxious labours, the energetic American fell seriously ill on his return to Simoda. This gave the Japanese an opportunity of showing how desirous they were to be kind, and to protect the stranger whom they personally liked so much. The Emperor deputed two court physicians to attend him, and gave them to understand that any mischance that might befall their patient would be attended with serious consequences to themselves—an authoritative hint to the faculty which was attended with the happiest results. Had Mr Harris been an only son, and had the two Japanese doctors stood in the relation of papa and mamma to him, their solicitude for his recovery could not have been greater, nor the cure more rapid, owing to their unremitting attention and admirable nursing. He had quite recovered when the steam-frigate Powhattan, with Flag-officer Tatnall on board, dashed into the quiet bay, and gave the startling intelligence of the occupation of Tientsin, and that on June 26th the proud Court of Pekin had submitted to our terms. It required no great prescience to see that the Allies would next visit Japan, and that if the Emperor did not with discretion and common-sense yield to circumstances, the visit would assuredly end in an imbroglio, like our Lorcha affair with the redoubtable Yeh. The Consul, on board the Powhattan, proceeded immediately to Kanagawa, the seaport of Yedo. There he sought an

interview with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, and was invited again to the capital; and the information he gave must have startled the Japanese Court. He urged that as America had taken the initiative in bringing Japan to enter again into communication with other nations than Holland, and that the general terms of a treaty had been agreed to, though not signed as yet, it was but fair that it should be fully concluded before the arrival of the English and French. The Japanese allowed the justice of the claim, closed with the Americans, and, on or about July 28, formally signed their treaty. Mr Harris was granted an interview with the Tai-koon, an amiable but sickly creature in the last stage of epileptić decay. Thus was won for the United States the honour of being the first nation to reopen free commercial relations with Japan, after a lapse of two centuries of Dutch monopoly.

The American Consul was most willing to afford the British Ambassador every information and assistance, and allowed Mr Hewskin to accompany Lord Elgin to Yedo. Without this gentleman's services as interpreter, his Excellency would have had to compile his treaty in English, and would have been at the entire mercy of the native linguists, and would have felt a want which such Chinese scholars as Mr T. Wade and Mr H. N. Lay had ably supplied for him in China. Mr Hewskin embarked in the Furious, and so excited all on board with glowing accounts of Yedo, that late in the night found us still listening, and discussing its wonders.

The Governor of Simoda tried hard to persuade the Ambassador to embark a native officer as a cicerone. Both parties were, however, equally determined upon this point. Lord Elgin declined the honour of a visitor whose presence might be inconvenient; but at day-dawn, as we weighed anchor, it required sundry revolutions of the steamer's paddles to prevent our being boarded by an individual who had evidently made up his mind to go with us, though, in making his calculations upon that head, he had not taken into consideration the force of the water thrown off by the wheels of the Furious acting upon his boat. The next man-of-war steamer he tries to board he will better understand what he is about.

It was in the early grey of the morning, on the 12th August 1858, that we weighed from Simoda, and steamed out into the tide-ripples, currents, and cross sea off its entrance. Daylight saw us going as hard as steam and sail would carry us to the northward. Vries Volcano, smoking and smouldering, rose out of the sea upon our right, and away to the left stretched Nīpon, high, bold, and mountainous, with a coast-line very unlike what was laid down in our charts. Ahead in the far distance gleamed through the mist headlands and points of the beautiful gulf to which we were bound. The breeze was fresh and fair, the sky bright, the sea blue and beautiful. All Nature seemed to rejoice, and to bid us rejoice with her; but as in the brightest day some cloud will yet be seen, so was it with us now. The bell tolled, the ensign drooped

half-mast high, and we stood for a few minutes uncovered whilst the funeral rite was performed over the body of a young sailor before we committed it to the deep. He was our first loss during an eighteen months' cruise in India and China ; and it was strange that the funeral should occur at the moment of all others when hope and excitement were at their highest amongst us.

CHAPTER IX.

THE Japanese authorities were evidently determined, if official obstructiveness could stop us, to leave no effort untried to do so. Even in the open sea between Vries Volcano and the entrance of Yedo Gulf, two guard-boats succeeded in throwing themselves in our track. At first the officer of the watch innocently believed them to be fishermen, and dreaming of turbot and mackerel, edged towards the boats, favouring the Japanese manœuvre. When almost under the ship's bows, up went the little square flags, and out popped upon the deck of each boat a two-sworded official, who, steadying himself against the excessive motion by placing his legs wide apart, waved frantically for the Furious to stop. The officer of the watch had directions to be perfectly deaf and blind for the next five minutes. The ship gave a sheer, and went clear of the boats by a few yards: they might as well have requested the Volcano behind them to cease smoking, as to yell for us to stop. Stop indeed!—why, the old ship knew as well as we did that the wind was fair and Yedo right ahead, and this accounts for her incivility to Japanese guard-boats, and her playful kick-up

of the heels as she went through the water at a nine-knot speed. The last we saw of the two officers was that one poor man performed a somersault, as his boat dived into a sea; and a somersault with two swords by his side, a queer-cut hat tied on *literally* to his nose, a shirt as stiff as if cut out of paper, and very bagging trousers, must be a feat not voluntarily gone through; while the other officer, who wisely had himself supported by two boatmen, continued to wave his arms, like an insane semaphore, so long as we looked at him. Poor fellows! we too knew what it was to suffer in performance of orders, and, giving them our hearty sympathy, we left these worthies to find their way back to their shores. By nine o'clock we were fairly entering the limits of the Gulf of Yedo, and the freshening gale rendered our speed little short of ten miles an hour. It was a glorious panorama past which we were rapidly sailing, and the exhilarating effect of its influence upon all of us, combined with a delicious climate and invigorating breeze, was visible in the glistening eyes and cheerful looks of the officers and men, who crowded to gaze upon the picture that unrolled itself before us. The scenery was neither Indian nor Chinese, and presented more of the features of a land within the temperate, than of one touching the torrid zone. The lower and nearer portions of the shores of the Gulf resembled strongly some of the most picturesque spots in our own dear islands; yet we have no gulf in Britain upon such a scale as that of Yedo. Take the fairest portion of the coast of Devonshire, and all

the shores of the Isle of Wight, form with their combined beauty a gulf forty-five miles long, and varying in width from ten to thirty. In every nook and valley, as well as along every sandy bay, place pretty towns and villages, cut out all brick-and-plaster villas with Corinthian porticoes, and introduce the neatest *chalêts* Switzerland ever produced—strew the bright sea with quaint vessels and picturesque boats, and you will have the foreground of the picture. For background, scatter to the eastward the finest scenery our Highlands of Scotland can afford—leave the blue and purple tints untouched, as well as the pine-tree and mountain-ash. Far back, fifty miles off, on the western side of the Gulf, amidst masses of snowy clouds and streams of golden mist, let a lofty mountain-range be seen, and at its centre rear a magnificent cone, the beautiful Fusi-hama, the "Matchless Mountain" of Japan;—and then, perhaps, the reader can in some way picture to his mind's eye the beauties of the Gulf of Yedo, in the loveliness of that bright day when it first gladdened our sight.

The freshening gale drove the ships, like sea-gulls, past the noble bluffs between Capes Sagami and Kamisaki. The latter, to which we approached within a thousand yards, was bristling with batteries and swarming with guard-boats, of which several, with officers and linguists on board, pushed off, and tried their best, by signals, to induce us to stop. We only gave ourselves time to note that the promising little port of Uragua was full of native vessels, and that

here shelter might be very likely found, if the anchorage in the Gulf proved insecure. Guided by the excellent map and chart of Commodore Perry, we hauled in for the western shore to avoid a dangerous shoal called by the Americans Saratoga Spit, and then bore away north. We sighted rapidly, one after the other, the various points and headlands mentioned by Perry, and recognised Treaty Point, near which the American treaty of March 31, 1854, was negotiated.

In the bay of Kanagawa, an extremely pretty indentation upon the west coast, just beyond Treaty Bluff, we saw at anchor the Russian frigate Esvold, and a despatch gunboat. The former we knew had on board his Excellency Count Pontiatine, the Russian plenipotentiary; and he was doubtless busily labouring, on behalf of his imperial master, amongst the treaty-bewildered Japanese.

The Furious was in ten fathoms water, and it seemed quite unreasonable to haul out of the high-road to the capital and anchor, because other people had done so, at Kanagawa. With the sanction of Lord Elgin, the Furious and Retribution bore away for Yedo. Mr Hewskin, the interpreter, had, whilst accompanying Mr Harris in his last visit to Yedo, been carried on one occasion in a small Japanese steamer from Kanagawa to the capital; but from his observations upon that occasion, he was led to believe that extensive mud-banks barred the approach to the city. Yet he suggested, what we found to have been the case, that the Japanese officers had taken the vessel by

a very shallow route expressly to mislead the new-comers.

Rattling along amongst fleets of native boats of all sizes round the shallows of Beacon Point, we went off the American chart on to really unknown ground, beyond the maps of Siebold and Kæmpfer, which alone gave us the coast-line, and guided us to the north-west corner of the Gulf, as the site of Yedo. On a very clear day from Beacon Point the southern suburb of Yedo, named Sinagawa, may doubtless be visible, as well as the hills situated within the limits of the city itself; but the strong gale before which we were blown, had caused a haze that hid all from us, except the outline of some low hills to the north-west. Directly we were clear of the shoals, and that the land appeared to recede from us, we hauled in for it, and presently we saw four square-rigged vessels riding at anchor under the land. When they bore N.W. by compass, we steered for them. The soundings commenced to diminish steadily, but it mattered not, for where there was water for those vessels there must be very nearly enough for us, and at any rate the bottom was a nice soft unctuous mud if we did happen to stick our keel in it. Our hopes were not doomed to be disappointed, for up out of the sea, and out of the mist, rose one startling novelty after another. Huge batteries, big enough to delight the Czar Nicholas—temples—the Imperial palace—Yedo itself curving round the Bay—all for the first time looked upon from the decks of a foreign man-of-war! The four square-

rigged vessels proved to be Japanese men-of-war, and when we had brought them, as well as the batteries, thoroughly under command of our guns, the Furious and the Retribution anchored in twenty-four feet water, as well as the little yacht Emperor, that under a press of sail and steam had been fruitlessly trying to overtake the larger vessels, since we entered the Gulf.

Shade of Will Adams! at last the prayer of the earnest old sailor, that his countrymen might reap wealth and advantage from commercial relations with Japan, was about to be fulfilled! Two hundred and fifty-eight years had elapsed since he, and his half-wrecked ship, had lain nigh the very spot in which we were; and now his countrymen had come in earnest. They held the empire of the East, and had won the wealth of all the Indies; and the arms of England, and the skill of her Ambassador, had thrown down all the barriers set up by China against foreign trade or intercourse. Great Britain, in those two hundred and twenty-five years which had intervened since her cessation of commerce with Japan, had carefully paved the way to the point at which it was no longer possible to tolerate the exclusiveness of an important and wealthy empire; and an English squadron and an English Ambassador were now off the capital of Japan, the bearers, it is true, of a message of good-will, but yet to show, in a way not to be mistaken, that the hour had arrived for Japan to yield to reason, or to be prepared to suffer, as the Court of Pekin had done, for its obstinacy.

A strong gale blowing direct upon the shore prevented all communication during the afternoon, and gave us ample time to consider the four Japanese vessels which rode at anchor close to us. Could one of them be the Erasmus, the "talle shippe" of stout Admiral Jacques Mayhay? Impossible! but then this ship must have been built on the model of that, or possibly on that of the craft of eighty tons which Will Adams tells us he had to construct during his detention in Yedo: he, poor fellow, being neither ship-builder nor carpenter! To add to the grotesqueness of this ghost of a ship of ancient days, it was painted of a lively red throughout. We afterwards learnt that this quaint argosy, as well as another one painted black, which seemed to have a strong tendency to float on her broadside, were objects of great pride and self-complacency with some very high Japanese authorities, as proofs to what perfection native ship-building had arrived, though there were some who thought that the sum of money thus wasted would have paid for two line-of-battle ships in Europe. The other two vessels under Japanese colours had been purchased from the Dutch: one was a paddle-wheel steamer, the other a screw; both tolerably armed, and looking efficient, and entirely manned and officered by natives.

Towards evening the breeze was still so fresh that only one Japanese boat had left us for the shore, with a communication from Lord Elgin to the authorities. A cloud of government boats were seen coming up the bay, and we learnt, as they each boarded and worried

us to death with questions, that they were the guard-boats that ought to have boarded and reported upon us at the many stations in the Gulf. They had had a long sail, and had a long way to go back; yet they were rather inclined to laugh than be cross at the wicked trick we had practised upon them. Among the first to board us was Yenoske, a linguist of inferior rank, who had some knowledge of the English language, and had been stationed a long way down the Gulf to intercept us. He had had nearly a thirty miles chase after us, yet laughed heartily after he got on board at the joke, and spoke of our proceedings as in the highest degree original, suggesting at the same time that, in our haste, we had made a mistake, which would of course be rectified on the morrow by our going back to Kanagawa! It was our turn to laugh now, but Yenoske still smiled, no doubt determined to think it very improbable we should remain where we were; and so we left him to collect answers to all the questions his report upon our ship required.

Mr Hewskin came on deck, and Yenoske's bright eyes glittered with delight as he recognised an old acquaintance. The puzzled physiognomies of many guard-boat officials brightened up as they hailed the well-known figure of the only European that had been seen in the city of Yedo who could speak Japanese; and with all of them it seemed to unravel the perplexity they were in, as to why we came beyond Kanagawa. It was clearly Hewskin who had brought on them this visitation! One of these mare's-nest-

seekers lighted upon the strange-shaped palanquin in which Mr Harris had been seen in Yedo. A *posse* of them walked round it, measured it, examined it, peered into it, assured themselves by argument that it was the same; and then one old gentleman, who must have been a fac-simile of the one who unravelled the Gunpowder Plot, called Yenoske aside, and, pointing at the mysterious chair, looked most ominous things. Yenoske returned to us, surrounded by the reporters, to suggest in blandest tones in Dutch that no doubt Mr Harris was below. No! Well, then he was somewhere on board? No, was still the reply; but we laughed so immoderately, and Yenoske joined so heartily, that we feel sure every one entered in their notebooks that Mr Harris was secreted somewhere on board the Furious; and possibly they found some comfort in the supposition. Yenoske left us soon after, with some missive for the city authorities. He proved to be an excellent little man, very civil and obliging, and, as the medium of intercourse between the Embassy and the English officers and the natives, showed wonderful tact and zeal, as well as great aptitude in improving his knowledge of our language.

Long after it was dark, and just as all were retiring to rest, a large boat, carrying handsome lanthorns, was reported to be approaching. To the hail of our sentry came the ready response, "a government boat!" She came alongside, and when the occupants were invited on board, a person walked up, bowed and introduced himself in very correct English, as "Mori-hama;"

then turning to Hewskin, shook him warmly by the hand. We remembered the name as that of the able interpreter spoken of by Perry. On accosting him, a fear was slyly expressed that our arrival must have put them to much inconvenience to occasion him to be about at so late an hour. Mori-hama acknowledged that it was so, for that we had rushed up the bay "like the wind." He had been despatched to Kanagawa to meet us when our entry in the bay was signaled; but before he got there we had passed, and he had but just returned to be sent off upon his present mission. Mori-hama then threw in some alarming hints as to the insecurity of our present anchorage—the shallowness of the water—the want of supplies—in fact, many things that should start us back again. After this, he began talking Dutch to Mr Hewskin in a very abrupt manner. We ventured to remark, that now that he was dealing with Englishmen, it would be better to adhere to their language, which he spoke so fluently. "Ah! of course," said he, laughing, "and I always desire to converse in English, but Hewskin will speak Dutch;"—a quick reply, but more quick than veracious. After pretending to be utterly surprised at this sudden arrival of the ambassador, he betrayed incidentally that a much exaggerated report of the size of the British squadron likely to visit Japan had come up from Nangasaki; and he left the ship, leaving behind him a very favourable impression of his address and ability. We have been thus prolix in describing our first interview with these two Japanese

interpreters, in order to show how well, in Mori-hama and Yenoske, the Japanese government was prepared to hold intercourse with England, and with what advantage to themselves.

Early next day, August the 13th, we weighed and moved to an anchorage between the Japanese men-of-war and their own batteries, where we had just water enough to float at low tide. This operation over, we were able, now that the weather had moderated, to scrutinise the town, situated at the head of a bay in the north-west angle of the Gulf of Yedo. The bay is formed by two low projections of land, named respectively, Beacon Point by the Americans, and Court Point by ourselves, after the master of the Furious. It is seven miles wide, and about as many deep, the water shoaling gradually up to the front of the city, where a bank of sand and shells, having only seven feet water upon it at high water, extends off shore to the distance of a mile, though there is a channel with deeper water, fit for native vessels, leading through this bank, and communicating with the river Toda-gawa. Along the seaward edge of this bank a series of formidable batteries has been constructed, starting from the point where the city of Yedo proper joins the suburb of Sinagawa, upon the west side of the bay. The original idea was a most ambitious one, to front the entire city at the distance of a mile with a double row of these detached fortresses, the inner line covering with their fire the interstices left in the front. Either the cash failed, or more sense came to their aid; at any rate only

about one-half of Yedo is thus screened with forts. Nearly the entire circumference of the bay is artificially embanked, as if to guard against the action of volcanic rollers. In other places immediately upon the sea-face of the city, these embankments, which must have been constructed many years ago, for they are covered with a fine green turf, and have many noble trees growing upon them, served the double purpose of a screen from the sea, and a fortification against any enemy who might arrive by way of the ocean. Queer enough in all conscience were some of these batteries, and the most formidable thing about them was the number of guns. Here, as we had remarked at Nangasaki, there was, on the part of the Government, the most wanton expenditure of cash in cannon any Eastern people were guilty of.

The city of Yedo, and its two southern suburbs, Sinagawa and Omagawa, curve round the bay for nearly ten miles; and subsequent comparison of our remarks upon its extent landward, with a native plan, now in the possession of Mr L. Oliphant, Lord Elgin's private secretary, confirmed the belief that the area of Yedo might be considered as a square, every side of which was seven miles long. Of course the whole of this area is not closely built over; indeed, in no capital that we know of has more care been taken to preserve fine open spaces, especially round the palaces of their emperor and princes, and the neighbourhood of their temples and tea-houses, both of which are the constant resort of all classes in Yedo. Within the limits of the

city are several hills of moderate elevation, as well as gentle slopes; in all cases they were but thinly built upon, and extensive gardens, with many magnificent trees, principally adorned their sides. On a hill which rises from the heart of the city and from a mass of densely crowded buildings, the imperial palace is built with a crenellated wall, half hidden by green banks and shady trees, within whose limits the ruler of this kingdom is immersed for life, as the sad penalty of his high position. The houses look very neat and comfortable, and are principally of wood, stone and brick being avoided as much as possible, in consequence of the frequency of earthquakes. No walls enclose the city, whose site is admirably adapted to admit of almost unlimited increase in extent, without interfering with drainage, supplies, intercommunication, or ready access to the waters of the bay, which insures to those living upon its shores cleanliness, sea air, and an easy highway. A river, the Toda-gawa, flows through the heart of Yedo; we could see one fine bridge spanning it near its mouth, and there are two others farther up. Besides the Toda-gawa, some smaller streams intersect the town and suburbs. The absence of all imposing edifices, and the general want of elevation in the ground upon which the city stands, render the view from the sea by no means imposing; but its extensive sea-front, the throb of life evident in the fleets of boats and vessels passing and repassing, the batteries and guns which frowned upon us, the hum as of a multitude at hand that was borne to our ears when the breeze came off the land,

all impressed us with the fact that we were at anchor off one of the largest capitals of the world.

In the afternoon four officers, deputed by the Japanese Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, waited upon Lord Elgin. Mori-hama was their master of the ceremonies, aided by Mr Hewskin. They were received by the officers and a guard of honour, and Mori-hama was asked if they would object to the salute, and replied that the Commissioners would like it very much, mentioning the number of guns to which they were entitled. Our visitors would furthermore have liked us, they said, to salute the national flag of Japan with twenty-one guns; but as our salute could not be returned, the subject was dropped.

The Commissioners then had their interview with Lord Elgin, and being one in which no state secrets were to be discussed, they were allowed to take into the cabin their usual retinue of reporters. Each Commissioner had a scribe, who upon his behalf wrote down, most minutely, all that was said and done during the interview—then there was a government reporter, who wrote his version of the same story; and besides this, there was an individual who was all eyes and ears, to report verbally upon both scribes and Commissioners. After a few complimentary and commonplace preliminaries, the business they had come about began. They first wished for some particulars as to Lord Elgin, his rank, titles, and office. They seemed to understand that he could be the Earl of Elgin, but where was his Lordship of Kincardine? And when their error was

explained, they enjoyed the joke as much as any one. Then they wanted to induce Lord Elgin to go back to Kanagawa, and land there, as all the other ambassadors had done. To this they got a firm refusal, yet each commissioner in succession offered some childish arguments upon that head. It appeared to us that they talked as much for the reporters as with any hope of attaining their object. After discussing some other minor points, the party adjourned to lunch, where, in conversation and in manners, the Commissioners showed themselves gentlemanly well-bred men. Mori-hama, whose rank obliged him to be on his knees before his superiors during the transaction of business, was now allowed to take his place as the guest of the Ambassador; and with his experience in lunches and dinners with Americans and Russians, he was a very useful fugleman to his less expert masters in handling knife, fork, and spoon. In answer to some remark that Yedo Bay was a remarkably fine one, one of the Commissioners asserted that it was very insecure as an anchorage, yet could not explain under such circumstances why the Japanese men-of-war, and so many native vessels, rode at anchor in it. They bemoaned the impossibility, in consequence of our distance from the shore, of getting off the supplies we so much needed, and urged that at Kanagawa * bazaars and stores had

* Kanagawa, fifteen miles southward, a spot often before mentioned. The Americans having accepted it as the seaport of Yedo, our constant difficulty in this land of precedents was to avoid being thrust into it likewise.

been established for the express purpose of supplying the Americans and Russians. The consolation offered in reply was, that if the supplies reached the beach, we could embark them ourselves, and if they did not come to the beach, we could always send ashore to purchase them—*ergo*, Yedo suited us just as well as any other place in Japan. They neither wished our boats to land on the beaches, nor that we should go on shore and run about to make purchases, consequently the difficulty about our supplies was overcome.

The Lee gunboat came in next morning, August 14th, having escaped destruction by a perfect miracle in the heavy gale of August 6th. Lieutenant-Commander Graham had, like ourselves, sought shelter from the weather, by anchoring off the coast of Kiu-siu Island, but was less fortunate in finding a spot from whence to escape when necessary. The wind, when it veered upon the night of the 7th, found his little craft deeply embayed, and for many hours during the 8th August she was in imminent peril. Her arrival caused some sensation, and Yenoske asked whether the number eighty-two painted upon her bow in figures two feet long,* had anything to do with the great fleet of eighty-four British and French vessels that a Nangasaki report (to which we have before alluded) had led the Japanese to suppose was likely to visit Yedo? The number eighty-two upon the bows of the Lee seemed

* It is usual in the navy to distinguish gunboats by some peculiar colour of funnels or bulwarks, and, in China, ours had a distinguishing number painted upon them.

like a confirmation of the rumour. At ten o'clock that night the ships were rocked for a minute or two in a very strange manner, and trembled as if with some sudden shock. The sea was smooth at the time, and there was nothing in the weather to account for the motion. We therefore supposed it was occasioned by some volcanic action, as the keel of the Furious at the time happened to be touching the mud. Those who had experienced earthquakes on board a ship in South America, fancied they recognised the motion.

August 15th brought off the Japanese Commissioners to make final arrangements as to Lord Elgin's mission; and, after a long conference, they left, having yielded the point that his Excellency might land in Yedo and remain there whilst negotiations were pending; indeed, it appeared that they had prepared a house, and at 10 A.M. on the morrow, the ambassador would be escorted to the proper landing-place by persons deputed for the purpose. It became likewise generally public that Count Pontiatine, the Russian Ambassador, was in Yedo, having arrived in a native palanquin from Kanagawa, in a very quiet manner, upon the self-same day that our squadron anchored off the city.

The anticipated disembarkation of the Ambassador, upon the 16th August, was postponed by heavy rain; but some of the gentlemen attached to the Embassy, who, like landsmen, would fain get ashore at any price, went boldly in spite of wind and wet. They returned in the evening wiser and sadder men. The Japanese

boat which conveyed them from the ship took them to the beach of the suburb of Sinagawa, where they had to get ashore in small punts, and march up to a tea-house kept by a lady, more fair than saintlike, and then they were shown the proposed residence of our Ambassador, which was not in the city of Yedo, and was in every way unfitting. But Mr Hewskin, who had landed with the members of the suite, saw what an escape Lord Elgin had had from one of those petty affronts by which the Japanese, like the Chinese, seek to compensate themselves for concessions wrung from them by force or argument. He caused the whole of the programme, so far as the Japanese part of the landing was concerned, to be entirely changed. A series of buildings, within the enclosure of an imperial temple, situated in the city, were selected for the residence of the British Embassy; and this, though far from a very gorgeous turn-out, had the merit of being situated in Yedo, and near a reputable part of it. To prevent all cavil as to where his Excellency was to land, a wharf, from whence the high officers of state embarked, was selected as our point of communication likewise.

Tuesday, the 17th August, came in a glorious day to pay honour to the entry of the first British Ambassador to Japan since the year 1613, when the envoy of James I. was favourably received by the then reigning emperor. Captain Barker had arranged that, without letting the Japanese into the secret of our proceedings, the landing should be effected in the

most solemn and imposing manner befitting the representative of our beloved sovereign, and so thoroughly to foil the plan, accidentally discovered on the previous day, of making Lord Elgin's entry into Yedo a hole-and-corner affair, unaccompanied by pomp and ceremony. The boats of the squadron were prepared, manned, and armed; the Retribution contributed her band; the ships were dressed with flags, and when all was ready, the Ambassador on board the Lee, accompanied by a perfect flotilla of our boats, proceeded towards the batteries. The Japanese officer and Yenoske, who had been sent off to escort his Excellency to the shore, were much struck by all these preparations; they even ceased to take notes, which was a serious sign.

The Lee threaded her way carefully towards an anchorage used by the native craft. Yenoske pointed out to Commander Graham a different route between two of the outer batteries, where the Lee would have certainly ran aground, but his friendly suggestion was not adopted. Within the line of batteries the Lee was obliged to anchor; the procession of boats now formed, the galleys of the squadron with their commanders led in double column all the pinnaces and cutters, with the officers of the respective ships dressed in full uniform. Astern of these, followed one of the launches carrying the band; then came the barge in which was embarked the Ambassador. Another large launch followed in the rear of the barge, and the launches of the Furious kept at a convenient dis-

tance upon either side, to prevent His Excellency being crowded upon by native boats. As we have before said, there was real "Queen's weather" to set off to the best advantage the show, where the ships dressed with bright-coloured flags, the boats with their gay pendants and ensigns, and laden with men and officers in gayest attire, and the boom of our ships' guns, had attracted a vast throng of human beings, who clustered in every open space whence a view of the procession was to be obtained. The boats crossed the shallow bank, and approached the official landing-place, where the Earl of Elgin disembarked, while the band played God save the Queen. As for the Japanese officials, they looked as if lost in wonder and astonishment that such things should be in the capital of Tai-Nīpon. The officers of the squadron remained on shore to escort the Ambassador to his palanquin, and that done, all returned to the ships.

We shall now give our desultory notes upon Yedo, without reference to dates. It was essential, in the first place, that the ships should establish, as early as possible, entire freedom of communication with the shore. This, so far as we were concerned, was easily carried out, but it appeared that boat-loads of people, who had put off from the shore to visit the squadron, were intercepted and sent away by the Japanese men-of-war. It was a delicate point to interfere with the Japanese police-laws in their own port, but we longed for an opportunity of reading them a lesson. One night after dark, a small boat was seen hovering round

the ship; the sentry, tired of getting no answer to his challenge, ceased to notice her, and she gradually crept up until we observed the crew hook on to the rudder-chains of the Furious. Anxious to see to what lengths their impertinence would carry them, they were left unmolested. Every now and then, if a fisherman's boat approached the ship, they stealthily went towards him, and sent the poor fellow away from us. At last a small boat, pulled by one man, came to the Furious from the Ambassador, and the guard-boat, mistaking her for a countryman, almost ran her down before the error was discovered. The English sailor expressed himself in rather strong vernacular, and the guard-boat again coolly returned to her station under our stern, where her capture was easily effected. There were eight persons in her. The crew and one officer were in uniform, and armed with swords, and there was a spy, and also a priest. The latter was evidently there as an amateur, and seemed more distressed than the others at the scrape they were in. They were unceremoniously bundled out of their boat, and had it lucidly explained to them that shooting was the fate that they at least merited. The spy commenced to speak a few words of Dutch, which none of us understood; and he, with equal ill success, wrote them down upon paper. In order that they might repent at leisure of their misdeed, they were sent into a corner of the quarter-deck behind the pivot-gun, to await judgment in the morning; and by the length of their faces, they evidently fancied that there was little hope left in what the morrow would bring. The priest especially depre-

cated our wrath, and producing some cakes out of one pocket, and a sakee or wine-cup out of the other, showed by unmistakable pantomime that he had joined the spy and officer in their cruise afloat, for the purpose of having a jolly pic-nic in their boat. The whole party were, however, with the usual summary justice of the quarter-deck, classed together, and a grim marine mounted sentry over them, the quantity of beard, mustache, and whisker in which the British soldier revelled, adding still more to the alarm of the prisoners —who, except in their most terrible legends, had never heard of such hairy men. After awhile, just as a Japanese vessel happened to be passing close to the ship, the spy jumped up, and with wonderful volubility bawled out to his countrymen his tale of alarm and probable suffering. Before the last words had passed his lips came the heavy tread of the royal marine, and as he gave him a shake, said—"Come, darn ye! come, none o' that!—can't ye go to sleep instead of bawling that fashion?" and then followed a mimic rehearsal of sudden death by bayonet. In the morning, we were satisfied that the warning had not been thrown away upon our Japanese friends, who made signs that, after sundown, they would never again attempt the vagaries of last night: they were allowed to return to their boat. After that we were not again troubled with guard-boats after dark, and those that haunted the vessels during the day did it most covertly. There was only one form of this nuisance which it was impossible to shake off—that of a man-of-war's boat pulling about the bay after any of ours which were employed survey-

ing. They in no way interfered, except to request we would not land in that part of the city immediately about the mouth of the river Toda-gawa, and as we really could not insist upon our right to sound, or to take angles in their port, their wish was not opposed. Such a system of supervision went, however, sadly against the grain with us, and the seamen seemed to take a savage delight in giving the Japanese boats mercilessly long pulls ;—but go from one side of the bay to the other, leave them miles behind, dodge them round points or batteries—and yet it was a fallacy to suppose we had shaken off that eternal Japanese guard-boat, with the officer of two swords, whose hat was tied on under his chin with a bow of riband such as ladies might have envied—and whose temper seemed as imperturbable as his notes upon us and our doings seemed voluminous. One explanation of this system of espionage we received from an extraordinary fellow whom we knew by the name of the "Scoundrel." He held some office in the native dockyard, and hailed for a Japanese, and dressed as one, but he spoke English exactly as American negroes do, combined with the strongest nasal twang of the low-born Yankee. This person, the first day we saw him, in reply to a question as to the motive the Japanese had in thus chasing our boats about, declared that their sole object was to prevent any rupture between ourselves and the people living near the sea-shore. "Nonsense!" we replied; "why, the people are civility itself, and if they do crowd upon us, it is from harmless

curiosity, which we should never resent." He declared that the people were unaccustomed to see strangers, and had great contempt for every one but their own countrymen, and that we were not aware how savage and brutal (such were his expressions) many of the people were. In spite of this, the impression upon our own mind still is, that the police-officers simply followed our boats to prevent any communication between us and the people.

The Japanese officers having acquired their professional knowledge under Dutch instructors, whose language was as unintelligible to us as that of Japan itself, there was an insurmountable barrier between them and ourselves. We consequently saw but little of each other, yet that little raised them very much in our estimation, and their acquaintance with the theory of their profession was highly creditable. The officer who appeared to be at the head of their squadron, and who figures now as one of the Commissioners who concluded the treaty of Yedo with Lord Elgin, under the title of Nunghigunbarno-Kami,* showed great knowledge of the parts and uses of the marine steam-engine. If it was true, as we heard, that this same "proud admiral" had actually conducted that remarkable native-built frigate, the "Ghost," to sea, he deserved well of his country, and merited, possibly, the title some Americans had given him, of Lord High Admiral, a title which Mori-hama also informed us was really his due.

* We may be wrong in the orthography, but we spell his name just as it was pronounced, premising that "Kami" is a title of courtesy.

CHAPTER X.

At the Embassy, where we hear affairs are progressing rapidly, it is arranged that the yacht is to be delivered over to the Japanese on the day of the signature of the Treaty. The Lieutenant-Governor of Yedo has all the Embassy under his especial care, and either in person, or by deputy, never loses sight of a single Englishman in Yedo. This pleasant office is compulsory, and he is held responsible for the good conduct and moral behaviour of every one of us; if we behave well, and do not sin against the laws of Japan, he will be rewarded on our departure—if otherwise, on him, not on us, will fall the reprimand and disgrace. Poor Lieutenant-Governor, we wish him well through his trials. A horse is to be in attendance to-morrow forenoon at the landing-place, and an officer to conduct us to the Embassy; we pack our portmanteaus, and do not omit to take with us every available dollar to invest in lacker-ware and in little dogs, which are reported to be perfectly beautiful. The morning proves as fine as we could desire; we rise at day-dawn to see the bay before the glare and haze of sunlight mar it. As the silver dawn spreads over the land and water, we see

that lovely mountain, Fusi-hama, the type of the beautiful to the whole Japanese nation. She steps like a coy maiden from her veil and her robes of cloud, to gaze upon all the loveliness spread at her feet; the scene lasts but a few minutes—we would it could have been for ever—but the bold sun leaps upon the crests of the Eastern hills, and Fusi-hama retires blushing from his fierce gaze. The bay and beach are quickly alive with moving beings, hundreds of fishing-boats skim the water, pressing in with the last of the night breeze to secure an early market. The number of full-grown men in each boat attests the redundancy of the population: stout, athletic fellows they are, smooth-skinned, bronze-coloured, and beardless, but their large muscles and deep chests attest the perfection of their physique. They look at us without fear or distrust, and as they bend to their oars shout out some joke or salutation. The morning breeze is cold and damp, the sun has not dispelled the low thin mist creeping along the surface of the bay from the lowlands to the north, and we are wearing blue clothing with comfort; yet all the boatmen are naked, with the exception of a small blue waist-cloth, and another strip of material tied tight over the nose! Why do the Japanese tie up their noses? we have often asked, for one cannot but believe that there is some good reason why a naked man should voluntarily lash up his nose. Can a Japanese nose be a fractious feature? or is it that noses require to be much taken care of in Japan? or may it not be that there is some security in this precaution against inhaling ma-

laria? We leave the question to be decided by future visitors, and content ourselves with the entry in our journal: *Mem.* In Yedo it is the custom afloat to tie up the nose, and wear but few garments.

Now, having breakfasted, we proceed to the landing-place. It is low water, shoals of boats and great numbers of men are at work in the shallows. Many are lading their boats with cockle-shells, scraped up from the bank, to burn into excellent lime; others are dredging for shell-fish; some are hauling the seine. Here our observations are interrupted by a spy-boat pulling alongside, and the officer coolly requesting by signs a seat in our boat. We are frank with him, and recommend him to go to the ——. He smiles, shoves off, and makes a note of our brief interchange of civility. Parties of respectable citizens, oily sleek men, of a well-to-do appearance, are embarked for a day's pleasure on the water; their children are with them, and every urchin has a fishing-line overboard. We thought of Mr Briggs—Punch's Mr Briggs—at Ramsgate. In another boat a lady is seated with her children; her dress betokens that she is of the better order; her family are laughing and trying to cook at a brazier which stands in the centre of the boat, whilst she sits abaft in the most matronly manner, and points out to one of her daughters what she deems most worthy of notice in our unworthy selves, our boat, and boat's crew. The young lady, we are glad to observe, without being unladylike, showed none of that suspicious fear of the genus Man so general in the excessively

modest East; which betokens even a better state of social civilisation than we had been led to expect by what we witnessed at Nangasaki. So we let the boat drift to enjoy all this, and, as a natural consequence, drift on shore close to the town. The police or spy boat immediately works itself into a fever, and the officer is most anxious we should know where the deep water leading to our landing-place could be found. To add to the fun, all the little boys and girls of the adjoining houses turn out, and come scampering down. The police-officer is in an awful state; he urges them back, waves his fan, expostulates with them; but it is all equally useless: so long as our boat remains on the mud, so long does young Japan remain staring into her and at us. The crowd did not as an English mob of boys would have done—pelt and chaff the officer, and we therefore had reason to praise their civility. After awhile we float the boat, and proceed. The entrances to several canals are passed; they serve, at high tide, to facilitate the communication between remote parts of the city and the sea. Now, they are nothing but huge sewers.

The landing-place reached, we see the officer who is charged with our convoy to the Embassy; he looks like a man who has much responsibility, and gives a great number of orders to the crowd of barges, so that we may land with facility. Our horses are wondrously got-up creatures; there is something truly mediæval in their trappings, barring the straw shoes wrapped round the hoofs, which spoils the poetry of our steeds; other-

wise the head-stalls, bits, saddle-cloths, martingales, cruppers, and stirrups might have been used by the Disinherited Knight in the tilt-yard of Front-de-Bœuf's castle. For the horses we cannot say as much; but they are good-tempered, sturdy little steeds. And so —to horse! The street leading from the landing-place is as wide as Regent Street, and terminates about three-quarters of a mile off, at the entrance of a handsome temple, whose green terraces, dotted with seats, and cool alcoves, look most refreshing. We turn, however, abruptly up a street parallel to the water. It is broad and clean; on either hand are continuous rows of shops; and at short intervals of three hundred yards a wooden barrier runs athwart the street, apparently constructed for purposes of police. Shops of a trade seem to run together: here we have eatables in any quantity; then basket and wicker work for all Japan; now, earthen-ware — then, iron-ware. And then, we exclaim, what a crowd! They have only run together as we pass, yet you might walk on their heads. We used to think the Chinese stowed closely in their houses, but these Japanese assuredly beat them in that; and what is far better, they do it with cleanliness, which the former certainly do not. Everybody looks well washed, contented, and merry—you do not meet a single cross or sullen look. In the doorways of the houses women abound. They have succeeded—God forgive them!—in making themselves as ugly as sin; yet they have good eyes, glossy hair, and a merry look. Generous creatures: we find they are mostly

married women, who have sacrificed their teeth and eyebrows to insure their poor husbands against the pangs of jealousy. The women have evidently abundant liberty here, and it is strange how indelicate the mass of the people are. Our police-officer is looking out most keenly for any pictures that might be exposed in the shops offensive to our sense of propriety, and they disappear like magic at his approach; still he sees not all, and we are startled by figures and models of the vilest description, swinging about unnoticed amongst men, women, and children, who seemed unconscious of, or indifferent to, the shameless exhibition.

We do not see a beggar, and the street is admirably clean. Some respectably-dressed Buddhist priests are chanting a hymn, in not unmusical cadence, at the closed door of a house—they will continue to do so until the heart of the proprietor is softened, or his patience gone; then the door will open, and he will fee them civilly. Our conductor now turns sharp down a street, at the end of which is a sturdy-looking gate; we are at the portal of the enclosure within which the British Embassy dwells. It opens, and, as we proceed, a grand procession is approaching us from the temple at the end of the road, and we find his Excellency and suite are just starting for their first visit to the Prince, who is said to direct the foreign affairs of Japan. His Lordship having brought with him a very gorgeous chair, which those learned in Chinese etiquette had declared to be of the proper

dimensions and colour for a statesman of his rank, was able to go and visit the Prince in comparative comfort; but all the rest of the party, naval and diplomatic, were packed in small wicker-work palanquins used in the country. To people accustomed to sit on their hams instead of chairs, travelling in such conveyances might be simple enough; but with our big-boned, big-jointed countrymen, done up in cocked hats, gilded coats, and long swords, the feat was a wonderful one, and a sight not easily to be forgotten.

The residence of the Ambassador was a small dwelling upon one side of the temple, with the back of the premises opening upon a pretty little garden. One large room occupying the ground-floor, was obtained by the simple process of removing all the screens which had originally cut it up into any number of apartments, and a large table brought from the ship quickly turned this into a dining and general drawing-room. Immediately over this apartment, another one equally large was fitted up with beds for the Ambassador's suite. His lordship occupied a couple of rooms which formed a wing running from the ground-floor into the garden. The farther apartment served the double purpose of a sitting-room and a hall of conference for the commissioners—the other was his lordship's bed and dressing room. A verandah ran along the back of the premises, and served as a means of communication between the different apartments. The garden, though very circumscribed in area, and so situated as to bound the horizon on every side, con-

tained within its limits two ponds stocked with fish, and ornamented with the lotus in full flower; a bridge, the lawn, shrubbery, kitchen, and flower-garden; and a mountain-side, up which a tortuous path led to two or three fine cedars on the summit, from whence an enterprising traveller might contemplate the roofs of two adjoining houses, and the cupola of a Buddhist temple, —each, to use a nautical metaphor, about a biscuit's throw distant! No one but a Japanese gardener could have crammed all these objects together into so small space, and still preserved anything like order and good taste, on neither of which heads could much complaint be made. Many of the trees were of course dwarfed, but the skill exhibited in having everything in just proportion, so as to make size and colour assist in the deception practised upon the eye, was, it appeared to us, most remarkable; and after all, the Embassy garden was but a very inferior specimen of the art of the Japanese gardener.

The entrance-hall of the Embassy was screened off here and there into small apartments for the domestics, and the two extremes of the hall (for it ran along the whole face of the house) terminated in the English kitchen at the one end, and the Japanese police establishment at the other. To us the latter was an endless source of interest, as much as were the wonders of the ambassadorial *cuisine* to all the Japanese priests, women, porters, and loungers with whom the courtyard in front was generally filled during the day-time. There were cracks in the wooden walls of the kitchen,

which rendered it a perfect peep-show, and there, with eyes fixed firmly to the chinks, a curious individual, after a tough battle for the position, would remain until, in the height of his astonishment, he inadvertently turned round to utter some exclamation, or communicate his information to the bystanders; in a moment he was borne away, and another successful sight-seer, won his envied peep-hole. The quantity of animal food consumed in the Embassy was a great source of wonderment. Fish, rice, and vegetables, cooked in a thousand different ways, form the food of the many millions inhabiting the Japanese group. They would as soon think of eating animals so valuable as their oxen are, as we should of consuming the flesh of our carriage horses or hunters; a sheep was a beast unknown to them; pigs are a luxury, reserved for the rich and noble; yet all these, and much more, they saw cooked in marvellous ways, and consumed in fabulous quantities for so thrifty a people. The police court was to us equally novel: through it all intercourse between the subjects of Queen Victoria and those of the Tai-koon was carried on, and through it the native authorities learnt everything that was done within the ambassadorial residence, at least all that they could understand or put an interpretation upon. The leading functionary was a deputy of the Lieutenant-governor of Yedo, and he sat in the farthest part of the apartment, from the hour of six in the morning until all had gone to rest, receiving reports, ordering supplies, directing the shopkeepers of the city to bring

the divers manufactures we strangers wished to purchase—running to the entrance to receive his superiors, and they were many, that came to look, hear, or see; and lastly, supervising the close inspection by his subordinates, of every article brought into the Embassy for sale, turning everything upside down, to see that nothing contraband got into our hands—recording its nature, quality, and price in a book, and then taking good care, that, although we paid for such purchases in Mexican dollars, only their equivalent value in Japanese Itzibus reached the hands of the vendor! That deputy of the Lieutenant-governor, as Yenoske would call him (though we believe his proper title and that of his chief should have been Police Magistrate and Superintendent), was a wonderful man, and still more wonderful when we found that, besides performing his multifarious duties, he found time to discuss, with three or four other persons sufficiently exalted in rank to feed at the same table, a long series of meals, and to smoke an unlimited number of pinches of tobacco in exceedingly pretty metal pipes.

The examination of every article before it was exhibited to us, and the record of each purchase, was done with a celerity and precision which spoke well for the business habits of the clerks employed; yet we felt for the poor tradesmen, whose time was thus wasted, and were not astonished to find that it almost required compulsion to get them to the Embassy, and that they seldom brought their best wares with them. The object of the Japanese government in recording

all our purchases, however trifling, was rather difficult to understand—perhaps it was the mere habit of "wanting to know, you know!"

Yenoske the linguist's duty consisted in being the medium of communication between the Europeans in the Embassy and the Japanese, and it required all the temper and patience which we ascribe to an angel, to be able to do this. His labours were incessant. Now there was a message or letter for the Commissioners one minute, and the next a requisition for fish and vegetables. Now, some one wanted musquito curtains for his bed; then another required four of the most valuable dogs in Yedo, at the smallest possible price. An irritable Briton wished to know why they insisted upon unpacking, examining, and recording every separate cup and saucer of a set he had purchased, and vowed he would not submit to it; and next, the little man armed with his two swords, and *en grande tenue*, had to escort a party from the Embassy to visit the sights in and around the city of Yedo. He was everywhere, and, next to Mr Hewskin, whose duties were equally multifarious, though of a higher order, all who visited Yedo are deeply indebted to Yenoske for his zeal and civility. The Ambassador and the party that went to visit the Secretary for Foreign Affairs returned in due time; and though no very flattering impression was made by the appearance and intelligence of that prince on those who went in his Excellency's suite, the interview was said to have been, on the whole, satisfactory. At any rate a box of

sweetmeats which followed each of the visitors as a present, was unexceptionable—especially what was called ribbon sweetmeat; and we can assure the rising generation of Great Britain that Buonaparte's ribs, toffey, barley-sugar, and such like delicacies, fall far short of it.

We heard that Lord Elgin had been told that the Tai-koon was very ill—indeed, too ill to grant an interview; but that his Excellency might, if he pleased, have an audience of the heir-apparent. The serious sickness of the Tai-koon we had heard of from Mr Harris at Simoda, who informed us that the unfortunate Emperor was in the last stage of epileptic disease, and in July, when he saw him, looked far more dead than alive.* Poor Tai-koon, few would willingly change places with him, immured from birth until death within the limited area of his palace garden, seeing nothing even of his own dominions but what his eye could range over from the terraces of his prison; learning nothing but through the verbal reports of his almost equally imprisoned high officers, or the written accounts sent in by the heads of the various departments—one can hardly conceive a situation more sad, or more likely to lead to those habits of intemperance or sensuality which end in epilepsy-idiotcy and an early grave. The high officers about court, we were told, were likewise confined to the palace during their tenure of office. They are able to find relief

* Subsequent to our visit a report reached us viâ Nangasaki, that the Tai-koon died the day we reached Yedo.

from such imprisonment by a system of incognito travelling, which, under the term *niebon*, is the privilege of the upper classes in Japan. In this manner grandees, whom strict etiquette would not have permitted to receive foreigners such as ourselves, or officially to visit the squadron, would very likely *niebon* have scrutinised us, and walked over the different ships; but we never heard that the Tai-koons had been known to avail themselves of this license. The reception of an ambassador, envoy, or deputation from a foreign state, under these circumstances, must be a great treat to any Tai-koon in possession of his faculties; and we were impressed with this idea from the account given by a gentleman who was present at the reception of a Dutch envoy and his suite at Yedo, and that not very many years since. The Tai-koon desired the strangers to take off their garments of ceremony, to stand upright, to walk about, to compliment each other, then to dance, to jump, and to play the drunkard! The complaisant suite were desired to speak broken Japanese, to read their own language aloud, to sketch, and lastly, to sing; and a Dutch love-song seems finally to have stayed the Tai-koon's inordinate curiosity, and saved the Dutchmen further exertion.

Two excursion-parties were arranged for the 24th August—one to some nursery and tea-gardens on the eastern outskirts of Yedo, involving a very long ride; the other, which we were strongly recommended to join (advice which we had reason afterwards to congratulate

ourselves on having taken), was to the south-west, to the Temple of Tetstze, which stands about half-way between Kanagawa and Yedo, though not, we think, on the main road. The *cortége* of Europeans, on horseback, found within the temple enclosure two officers of the police establishment leading, and one bringing up the rear. The array of both man and horse in the case of these functionaries was the acme of Japanese dandyism—the switch tails of the steeds they bestrode had been even tied up in long blue bags, and produced a killing effect! The gates were opened at the mandate of the senior functionary, and we sallied forth. Happy those who had provided themselves with English saddles and bridles—we, the unwise ones, shall assuredly bear the memory of those brass-bound demi-peak saddles to our graves. There must be a marvellous supply of copper and zinc in Yedo, for everything is bedizened with these metals in some shape or other, and our spirited little ponies carried almost as much of it on their backs as of English flesh and bone. The stirrups alone must have weighed from thirty to forty pounds the pair: they were solid masses of bronze, with a place for the foot, formed in the shape of the wooden shoes sometimes seen in use amongst the foreign peasantry, and covered with most beautiful inlaid work, in white copper or silver. The saddle, shaped like a letter V, was handsomely and tastefully bound with bronze along the entire edge. Its original model may undoubtedly have been European, but (like that vermilion frigate) of those days long gone by, when an

ambassador's suite would all have been cased in steel, and rendered thus invulnerable. Mr Hewskin, more wise than the rest, had brought his pillow out to ride upon, a precaution we would recommend to all future tourists using Japanese saddles. Our horse's head was rendered perfectly sword and bullet proof, from the quantity of brass and bronze about it; and, apart from the weight of these things, there was no questioning their beauty, and the wonderful skill and taste of the ornamental labour.

The sun was high, and the day as warm a one, we fancy, as is usually experienced at Yedo in the summer; yet, thanks to the bracing effects of the climate and to the refreshing sea-breeze, we were all able to bear exposure to the heat,—when at Shanghai, *coup-de-soleil*, cholera, or some other unpleasant concomitant, would assuredly have overtaken most of the party. The streets were somewhat bare, for it was the usual hour for the afternoon siesta, and, the appearance of the foreigners in this direction had been unlooked for: there were, however, people enough moving about to prove what a line of human beings we were passing through; and on our return in the evening, the throng was very great. The shops we saw were none of them of the first-class—these are only to be found in the heart of the city, and our road led to the suburbs. It appeared as if there were only two classes of dwellings —those of the shopkeeper, and the enclosures, rather than palaces, of the nobles. We had been told that there was an especial quarter set apart for the dwell-

ings of the nobles; but their numbers or property exceeded the prescribed limits, for in our ride we constantly went past a long extent of houses, and then came suddenly upon an interval of paling or wall which enclosed the establishment of some Japanese baron and his many retainers or serfs. Herds of these fellows would collect, and stare at us, and pass their remarks, all of which we were told were made on the erroneous supposition that we were Chinese traders, people whom the Japanese hold in utter contempt. These serfs or slaves are the property of the noble, much in the same manner as in Russia, and are turned to similar profit. It was strange to find a nobleman living in the heart of a great city, surrounded by these retainers, and it recalled to mind the feudal days of our own country, to which age, indeed, much that we saw in Japan carried back our thoughts. At a small bridge thrown over a canal or creek, which we crossed, the suburbs commenced, the boundary being merely conventional, for there was no change in the number of the houses and streets. Instead of shops, every house—and they were quite of the better order—was a place of entertainment; tea-house and restaurant succeeded one another in endless numbers; and up the streets which branched off, all seemed of this same character. We were not long in discovering that this was the particular quarter in which all the courtesans of Yedo are by law obliged to reside,—not as a mark of disgrace, or because they are considered outcasts; for, far otherwise, the law acknowledges this course of life as the legitimate resource of

the penniless. They are said to be the best educated and most polished women in Japan, and some of them have obtained historical eminence for their beauty and talents. Marriages are constantly made from amongst them, and it is the generally received opinion amongst the Japanese men that they make the best housekeepers, and their society is not shunned by any one, whether ladies or gentlemen. The social errors of Japan, and elsewhere in the South Seas, it is, however, unadvisable to dilate upon in English publications; but it is unjust to measure their morality by the codes of Christian nations: suffice it that infidelity on the part of married women in Japan is almost unknown; but that polygamy, concubinage, and prostitution are the custom of the people. Those who have any curiosity on such a subject will find, in the works of Kæmpfer and Siebold, much that is strange; but they should remark that both these writers relate details of customs which are startling to Europeans, without giving the causes which have brought about such a system; and that, deplorable as the morality of Japan may be, they have travelled to little purpose in the far East who know not of social conditions worse than this.

We now reached that portion of the suburb of Sinagawa where a ridge of hills, enclosed within a nobleman's grounds, pressed so close to the sea that only a single street was left winding by the shore, and at intervals upon the seaward side beautiful views of Yedo Bay and the distant shores of the eastern side of the gulf might be obtained. The tea-houses had turned

to account the appearance of foreign ships in the bay, and verandahs commanding views of them had been thrown out, in which the Japanese gentlemen, travellers, or labourers, might rest, drink tea or sakee, and look through huge telescopes of native manufacture fixed upon stands. They were waited upon, not by nasty fusty waiters, redolent of bad cigars and bear's grease, but by brisk damsels, as modestly and quietly dressed and as neat-handed as any English Susan Nipper. The road was quite as broad as any high-road at home, in capital preservation, with on each side a pathway, separated from it by a drain. Here and there we came upon places where the sea at high tide touched one side of the road; wherever this was the case a stone-wall had been built towards the sea so as to keep the road level and prevent inundation. We passed a nobleman's grounds which would have done credit for their neatness and good keeping to any park in Britain; it was just at the junction of the detached suburbs with those directly connected with the city. Here was the position for a European colony; and all we can hope is, that when the time comes, in January 1862, that according to treaty the four Powers will be entitled to residence in Yedo, this nobleman may be induced to let or sell sites for the houses of the mercantile community.

We met travellers in uncomfortable sedan-chairs, and they nearly all halted and sat staring at us, their knees doubled up to the chin, and looking disagreeably hot and dusty; and among the many pedestrians throng-

ing the road-side, peasants were to be seen hastening back to their homes from market, carrying some purchase from the great city, and it was generally remarked that few of these good fellows were without some child's toy in their hands. We had noticed the number of children's toyshops, and these seemed proofs of how much love is expended upon the younger members of the community by these kind-hearted people. The girls as well as the boys appear to enjoy an equal share of regard. Groups of both sexes ran along the road-side enjoying the rare sight of such wonderful men as we were, while their grown-up countrymen laughed and cheered them on. We did not begrudge them the treat, nor that of shouting out that we were Chinamen ; but our gallant police functionaries hurled words of thunder at them now and then, and looked terrible things, which would only for a minute awe the little monkeys into silence.

The day was fine, and naturally we broke into a canter as we came upon the first open piece of road at the southern limit of Yedo. The senior police functionary was got up for a walk, not for galloping ! He tried all sorts of means to stop us, but failing, dropped astern in a dignified manner, in the society of our horse-boys, who also duly expostulated with us upon our unseemly conduct, and then burst out laughing at our ridiculous behaviour, and fell behind. For a mile, the immediate road-side was clear of houses ; but small farms, and here and there a little hamlet, were seen. The ground was low on either hand, but rose at no

great distance on the landward side into hills. The lowland was all under rice cultivation; and much as we had seen of the profusion of labour, the neatness of the fields, hedges, ditches, fences, and palings in China, it bore no comparison with what we now saw; and a point which we all hailed with delight was, that the process of fertilising the soil here did not poison the air, as it does everywhere there! The road carried us to another village of considerable extent, where functionary "No. 2" managed to persuade Lord Elgin that his horse required baiting, and that we, although only an hour and a half from lunch, required refreshment in a peach-garden. To the peach-garden we went, though that fruit was no longer procurable; but the place was prettily laid out with trees, grass, artificial lakes, bridges, and pleasant summer-houses, and verandahs. The establishment was under the management of or belonged to a lady, and as soon as "No. 2" functionary had swaggered about, and enlightened them as to the important positions that he and Lord Elgin held, arrangements were made for refreshment. There being no chairs in Japan, we threw ourselves at full length upon the nice clean mats. Several low tables, just high enough for people seated cross-legged on the ground, were placed near, and then the hostess upon her knees, commencing with the Ambassador, presented each person with a cup of tea. She was a remarkably good-looking, lady-like woman—nothing could have been more graceful than her manner; and the posture of kneeling,

accompanied by a low bow to signify prostration at one's feet, is the custom of the country, where every subordinate prostrates himself in the presence of his superior. This loving cup having been presented, she stood aside and directed her servants to place fruits and other refreshments before us; her teeth were blackened, and consequently she must be a married woman, though no husband appeared. Possibly she was a widow; but if so, she had decidedly reached that stage of widowhood known as that of mitigated woe in the mourning warehouses at home. We are undecided up to this moment whether to ascribe our being attended upon by the ugly handmaidens of the establishment to the matronly prudence of our good hostess alone, or to some villanous reasons of functionary "No. 2;" but there, away in the distance, we saw such pretty girls! The poor ugly ones! one should always feel for ugly women, dear reader. Heaven no doubt intended all women, like the flowers, to be pretty or beautiful; an ugly woman is a mistake —but at any rate, there were two of those unfortunates sent to attend upon the Ambassador and his party. In justice, it must be said that their cleanliness, neatness, and the quick wit with which the poor girls saw exactly what each guest wanted, reconciled us to them amazingly; and none enjoyed the joke more heartily than they did, when some of the party beseeched the prudent matron to allow the handsomer young ladies to wait on us; a request she met with a shake of the head, and a glance at that abominable fellow, "No. 2"

functionary, who doubtless thus revenged himself upon us for the gallop we had inflicted upon him on his brass-bound demi-peak saddle. The dress of the Japanese women is simple, but graceful. The robe which crosses the breast, close up to the neck, or a little lower according to the taste of the wearer, reaches nearly down to the ground, and has loose sleeves, leaving the wrist free. This robe is confined round the body by a shawl, which is tied behind in a bow, the ends flowing. Everything in Japan, even to dress, is regulated by law, and the sumptuary laws have been very strict until lately, when contact with Europeans appears to be bringing about a slight relaxation. The colour worn by all classes of men in their usual dress is black, or dark blue, of varied patterns; but the women very properly are allowed, and of course avail themselves of the privilege, to wear brighter dresses. Yet their taste was so good that noisy colours were generally eschewed. Their robes were generally striped silks of grey, blue, or black; the shawl some beautiful bright colour—crimson, for instance; and their fine jet-black hair was tastefully set off, by having crimson crape, of a very beautiful texture, thrown in among it. Of course we speak of the outdoor dress of the women—their full dress within doors is, we believe, far more gay.

We had just made up our minds that life in a Japanese peach-garden was the thing of all others most to be desired, and that the Furious, Retribution, and Lee, might go back to foul and fusty

China as soon as they pleased, and that anybody might fight for tea, and do policemen amongst the piratical Cantonese, provided we were troubled no farther upon such points, when functionary "No. 1" ambled up, and functionary "No. 2" suggested to his Excellency that we might, if he pleased, proceed, and we had to resign ourselves to fate, and again mount our ponies. The law prohibited the distribution of any British coins, and how to fee the good people around us was a difficulty, until it was happily discovered that uniform buttons did not come within the enactment, and that they were much prized by the Japanese ladies. That day the party returned to the Embassy, wonderfully shorn of ornamental crown-and-anchor buttons; but some of us hoped we had succeeded in ingratiating ourselves by our presents almost as much as our friends in the Embassy had done, with their magnificent beards and moustaches, the novelty of which manly ornament was great, and the effect these produced must have been highly satisfactory to our diplomatists.

From the peach-garden we rode for a mile or two through a long village, which was a model of neatness; and flowers and pretty plants round even the poorest cottage were general. No pigs were seen feeding on the road-side, or poultry running into the houses—both were in their places, the former in their sties, the latter in the yards. A ride of seven miles brought us to the borders of a fine rapid stream, which discharges itself into Yedo Bay, not far from Beacon Point. Our

steeds were placed in admirable ferry-boats, and ourselves accommodated in others, and the ferrymen poled us across with long bamboos to a landing-place upon the opposite side. This stream marks the boundary to which European residents at Kanagawa may only for the present proceed in the direction of Yedo, and a very good ride it is of more than ten miles, through a most beautiful and rich country. It was to this place that an enterprising chaplain, belonging to one of the ships of Commodore Perry's American Expedition, found his way, during that gallant officer's negotiations at Kanagawa. It was at that time so contrary to all Japanese rules that a stranger should thus enter their exclusive country, and dare to walk where he pleased, that a special report was made to the Commodore of the circumstance. That officer immediately despatched a written order by a Japanese official, for the gentleman to retrace his steps; and as a proof of how closely every act is reported upon in Japan, we repeat from memory the Government record, as it was told us: that the despatch was delivered to the chaplain on the banks of the river, near the ferry, where he was endeavouring to compel the natives to ferry him over to the Yedo side of the water; that on receiving the letter he stopped, read it, went on a short distance, stopped again, opened the letter, and then returned! A minute detail of his acts, almost equal to that of the reporters of the Irish press upon the late tour of his Eminence Cardinal Wiseman.

Beyond the landing-place referred to, we passed

through another pretty little town, and at "the Hotel of Ten Thousand Centuries" another meal was ordered to be ready for us on our way back from the temple. We are afraid to trust ourselves to a minute description of the country scene through which we now rode. It was neither monotonous nor stiff; yet the road, fields, ditches, drains, and cottages, all looked as if they had just been constructed, tilled, clipped, planted, or clean swept, ready for special inspection;—industry combined with the greatest economy of space and material, blended with taste and beauty. Our precious saddle—we won't use violent language, fair reader—was enough to knock all appreciation of the picturesque out of any one, and it is the best guarantee for our not exaggerating what we saw. There were orchards of pears and peaches, where the trees were trained over neat trellises of bamboo, as if they had been vines—bright patches of the Taro plant spread their dark-green broad leaves on the one hand; and on the drier soil the millet plant of Northern China flourished, as well as the rich golden ears of the Indian-corn. Now a gentleman's house appeared within a neat enclosure of hedge, as well clipped as that of a London suburban villa; but its stiffness of outline was broken by a Japanese convolvulus having been allowed to run over it, loaded with many-coloured flowers. Very fine groves of trees were seen, and we noticed among them two sorts of pine-tree, one which throws out its sprays like the Norfolk Island pine, and the other the ordinary one peculiar to Japan. The maple, chestnut, walnut, and oak, we like-

wise recognised, or trees very like them, and the orange was not rare. Bamboo was plentiful; and finding it in a climate which in the winter is undoubtedly severe, we could not help hoping that it, as well as the banana tree of China, may be naturalised on the south coast of England. We were anything but tired of the scenes through which we were riding, when the Temple of Tetstze came in sight; and we rattled through a street, followed by a vast throng of wonder-stricken Japanese, and turned into the portals of the Temple. A broad well-paved court led to a building that stood upon a lofty basement. A fine flight of granite steps led to the porch, round which, as well as up the steps, there was a balustrade in stone and bronze. The interior of this Buddhist temple consisted mainly of a very elaborate altar, having a raised dais in front, carefully railed round, upon which there was the most extraordinary collection of metal castings, mostly of white copper, we ever saw. They were no doubt offerings to the placid stucco deity, who was ensconced behind candlesticks, lights, and silken banners. Everything was clean, neat, and in working order, evincing that the religion, such as it is, is active in Japan, not dormant, worn-out, effete, as in China. The priests were well to do, decently clad, and reverent in their appearance, and were treated with respect. The Principal saluted Lord Elgin, and paid him every attention, offering to conduct him over the grounds and cloisters. Time, however, pressed for the ride back to the Embassy, and the civility was declined. On reaching the porch, the scene

round the grand flight of steps, and across the court, was such a sight as only Japan could produce upon so short a notice. Every space was literally *crammed* with human beings. The corridors of the temple, the galleries in the cloisters, the walls and roofs which overlook the yard, were black or brown with men, women, and children. It was a wonderful sight. They shouted, not violently, but shouted with astonishment and delight at the spectacle the half-dozen Europeans afforded them. The prospect of having to fight a way through such a sea of human beings was not cheering, but three or four policemen quietly cleared the way, and a path opened before us to the gate. There the policemen checkmated the crowd, who were on the point of rushing after us into the street, by securing the gates instantaneously, amidst a roar of indignation from the thousands who found themselves thus shut up within the limits of the temple. Then came cries, and laughter, and a rush ; and as we rounded another portion of the temple enclosure, the prodigious crowd had collected for a last gaze at us, where a broad intervening ditch, however, prevented them from incommoding the strangers.

Returning by the way we had come, we halted for refreshment at "the Hotel of Ten Thousand Centuries," which was as decent a house as many European countries could produce, and a vast deal cleaner and more moderate than some we could mention in Great Britain. Functionary "No. 2" here eat and drank himself into such a state of supreme contempt for foreigners that he left

us, and we only caught sight of him again for a moment in what might have been the window of his club, where, surrounded by swells as great as himself, to whom he was pointing out the various members of our party, he had a bevy of Japanese houris dancing attendance upon him. As our cavalcade neared Yedo, it was certain that it had been expected to return by this route, and all Kanagawa, Omagawa, and the inhabitants of that part of Yedo, were there to stare. The crowd at a Lord Mayor's show, in the old days when such glories were, can alone bring before the reader the idea of such a vast mass of human beings thus brought together. The pavement, side-streets, and houses were full; yet no insult and no hindrance were suffered. In places where the crowd in a side-street threatened to block the thoroughfare by pouring into the main street, a small piece of rope or string was stretched across from corner to corner, and no one dared to break the fragile barrier. In the suburbs, at 5 P.M., every one was bathing, and "cleanliness first, modesty afterwards!" seemed to be their motto. In some cases, the tubs were outside the doorways, and the family enjoyed themselves in the open air, rubbing themselves down in the steaming hot water, with cloths; others had their tubs in the room on their ground-floors, but the front of the house was perfectly open, and the manner in which the fair Eves stepped out of their baths, and ran to stare at us, holding perhaps a steaming and squalling babe before them, was a little startling.

Night was closing in as we reached the Embassy, about which the inhabitants, more accustomed to the sight of strangers than those in the distant quarters, left the streets comparatively clear. It appeared to us as if there was little traffic carried on during the night, and in some cases the barriers at the ends of the streets were closed.

It was generally agreed that during the ride to the temple of Tetstze we must have seen at least 80,000 Japanese, the majority of them men—yet no one had noticed a crippled, deformed, or leprous person. The writer was careful to count all those Japanese whom he saw during that day suffering from infirmities arising from disease—such, for instance, as loss of eyesight from small-pox. The entire number, incredible as it may appear, amongst so many thousands of human beings, fell considerably short of a hundred. Pock-marks were common, but by no means general.

Only two beggars were seen in this ride of full twenty-two miles: one was a mendicant priest, too aged to wander about, and he was seated under a tree by the wayside, beating the discordant wooden drum used in Buddhist temples, and mumbling over endless prayers; and the other beggar was a very venerable and decrepid old woman. This was all the really downright poverty we heard of or saw in Yedo; and we can hardly believe that the paupers were put out of sight during the stay of the English.

If squalor and poverty were not to be found in

Yedo, neither was there ostentatious magnificence or extravagance amongst the higher and wealthier classes. In the audience-chamber of the Prince of Bitsu, or in the official procession of an imperial commissioner going to an interview with Lord Elgin, there was no gaudy display of bright-coloured silks or satins, no glitter of gold and silver, yet there was abundance of ceremony, and invariably a large well-dressed retinue. The Japanese men may be said to be the Quakers of the East, from the sombre colour and style of their dress; and the contrast between the tawdry magnificence of Chinese mandarins, and the simple yet orderly array of a high Japanese functionary, was very striking.

We have already spoken of the curiosity of the people, and of the struggle which daily took place to inspect the mysteries of the Ambassador's kitchen. There were many other instances of the wonder excited by the novelty, and (as they owned) by the superiority of the strangers. Yenoske, the interpreter, had often to blush at what he called the ill-manners of his countrymen, but he assured us that in three or four years' time they would behave much better! Poor souls! it would indeed have been unreasonable to have resented their inquisitiveness; and if we ever did so, they immediately recalled us to our senses by a good-humoured laugh. The visitors to the Embassy being quartered at a temple a short distance from the abode of that Argus-eyed individual, the Deputy Lieutenant-Governor, were especially favoured with the attentions of

those ladies and gentlemen of Yedo, who wished to judge for themselves of English manners and customs. No doubt, the priests, who, with their families (for priests in Japan are allowed to marry), were living in the enclosure of the same temple, turned to profitable account the spectacle we afforded to their friends and neighbours. There was no objection to gratify all reasonable curiosity, and arrangements were made that our only apartment should be thrown open for an audience directly after the morning ablutions were completed. This express stipulation that a Briton taking his bath was to form no part of the morning's entertainment, was made in consequence of one of our party having unconsciously, for several mornings, been shown to various parties of Japanese ladies, in such light costume as might enable them to assure themselves of the fact that his skin was quite as fair as his face and hands promised. All the wonders of the dressing-table, from stropping a razor to putting eau-de-cologne upon a pocket-handkerchief, were freely exhibited. A jolly old priest laughed immoderately at our applying such a spirit to so ignoble a purpose, and tried to enlighten the foreigners as to its proper use, by tossing off any quantity that might be poured into the palm of his hand. The ladies were especially delighted with scented soaps and hair-brushes, and the gentlemen looked upon boots and gilt buttons as marvels which it was highly desirable the Japanese nation should know how to manufacture as soon as possible.

Our sleeping apartment was one of two which formed the wing of a small temple, the main body of which rightfully belonged to some half-dozen Japanese deities, who had retired from business, behind screens, during our stay. In front, and behind this wing of the building, there were gardens, each about a hundred feet square, and here the priests had spent long lives of industry in cramping the growth of unhappy firs, and divers other trees and plants. Directly we became the inmates of the rooms referred to, a little shed was constructed in the corner of the back-garden, and here a priest was permanently posted to watch our doings, while at night a policeman with a bamboo rattle joined him, and disturbed our rest with hourly tunes upon his instrument. We had, like the eels, just become accustomed to this infliction, when, one night, the bleating of a goat awoke us so often, that we sprang out of bed, wishing the policemen's rattle down its throat, and vowing vengeance on the beast. Stepping out into the balcony which ran round the apartment, we saw a white goat trotting over the grass and flower-beds, bleating incessantly, whilst the priest and policeman were addressing it in Japanese, and the former occasionally threw up his arms, and made reverent obeisances to the brute. We had ready a pair of stout boots to pelt the goat with, but they fell harmless from our hands, for we at once jumped to the conclusion that the goat was an incarnation of Buddha, and that to touch it would be sacrilege. Mentally anathematising all such noisy objects of

idolatrous worship, we besought the priest and policeman to persuade their four-legged deity to remove its sacred presence to another part of the premises. They understood us, and with awe-struck faces, which the bright starlight enabled us to see, proceeded to carry out our wishes. They approached most cautiously, making all sorts of coaxing and wheedling noises—but directly the goat showed the slightest inclination to resist, or drooped its head as if to butt, away scuttled priest and policeman, and hid themselves until we cheered them on again to the fray. At last the animal was expelled, and the priest held up his hands, shook his head, and sighed as he returned to his hut, as if what he had done was "no canny;" and all this so confirmed us in our supposition, that when the brute again returned at dawn and bleated, we only pulled the bedclothes over our head, and hoped for the speedy religious enlightenment of the idolatrous worshippers of Nanny-goats. All that we saw during the day still confirmed us in our original idea, for there was the goat browsing upon dwarfed plants which were worth their weight in gold, and the priests did not attempt to stop it, but offered it hot boiled rice in a plate, a devout offering which the beast indignantly rejected. A second night of the same bleatings was, however, too much for the patience of a naval officer; and, taking the greatest care not to touch or hurt the goat (a forbearance which cost an hour's hard work, where five minutes would otherwise have sufficed), we expelled it from our gardens, and

sent it forth into the general court of the temple. Had a certain old gentleman in black made his appearance in that courtyard, the astonishment and horror of the horse-boys, porters, and policemen could not have been greater, and they seemed quite ready to follow the example of the children, who ran off yelling with alarm. Then, and not until then, the truth flashed across us, that the goat was one that had been brought from the ship, and what appeared at first to be reverential awe, was merely extreme fear and wonder at the sight of so marvellous a quadruped!

Besides the temple of Tetstze, there were many others equally important, and perhaps more resorted to, within and around the city of Yedo. One very fine one stood between the Embassy and Palace Hill, which we were requested not to enter, for fear of exciting the intolerance of its priests and frequenters. Judging by the exterior of the buildings, and the beauty of the grounds around it, it would have well repaid a visit. We fancied that it was from this temple that the time of all Yedo was regulated, by the sounds of a richly-toned bell, whose sonorous notes struck the Japanese hours so as to be heard even as far as the anchorage of the shipping. The temples in Japan, as in China, are used as hotels for travellers, and also as places of refreshment for pleasure-seekers; indeed, judging by the number of places adapted for public amusement in Yedo, we should write the people down as a most holiday-making set. The whole city was surrounded with gardens, tea-houses, and temples,

which were all resorted to by the old and young of both sexes for recreation. We could not afford time to visit all, but there was the Odyee Garden—the Richmond of Yedo—with its "Star and Garter," where, in shady apartments near cool streams and picturesque waterfalls, the holiday-seeker might enjoy delicious tea or generous sakee, and be tended by the prettiest of pretty Japanese damsels. There were tempting walks through groves of dark-green trees, opening upon terraces which commanded fine views of the huge city, or of the country to the north, rich with cultivation, and dotted with houses; or of the rich plain and its woods, winding amongst which might be traced for many a mile the silvery thread of the rivêr Toda-gawa.

The nursery-gardens were bôth numerous and well kept; they were not the result of imperial or princely whim, but of individual enterprise; and as such, it is questionable whether many European countries could produce anything equal to them. The season for flowers was unfortunately past, and that for the seeds had not yet arrived, so that our botanists were, we believe, not generally fortunate; but they all spoke favourably of the care, neatness, and skill of the Yedo gardeners. All these gardens were fitted up as places of public amusement; and our countrymen spoke quite as much, we must in candour admit, of the beauty of the fair daughters of Yedo, as they did of the loveliness of the camellias which abound here. Some of the older and wiser heads declared that the good looks of the Japanese young ladies partook rather of the

character which the French denominate *la beauté du diable;* yet there was a grace, kindliness, and gentle frankness about the fair Omityas, Omatyas, and Okayoos of Yedo, which were most winning; so much so, indeed, that more than one was heard to declare his intention of returning to Japan at some future day.

No one of the English succeeded in visiting the interior of the grounds enclosed within what is called the Imperial Palace, bnt nothing else was left unvisited that was worth seeing. Apart from the advantage it gave Lord Elgin to judge of everything by personal inspection, such a practice did much good in accustoming the natives to the appearance of strangers, and letting them form for themselves an opinion of their English visitors.

Upon this principle two or more parties daily sallied forth before breakfast to make purchases in the town, and we procured on such occasions more interesting specimens of Japanese industry than were ever brought to the Embassy by the people themselves. The shops contained all the various articles we have already described as being so plentiful in the bazaars of Nangasaki, with the addition of beautiful embroidery upon silk and crape, and most tasteful ornaments in glass, such as toilet-table bottles, tumblers, &c.

It was wonderful to see the thousand useful as well as ornamental purposes to which paper was applicable in the hands of these industrious and tasteful people; our papier-maché manufacturers, as well as the Continental ones, should go to Yedo to learn what can be

done with paper. We saw it made into material so closely resembling russian and morocco leather and pig-skin, that it was very difficult to detect the difference. With the aid of lacker-varnish and skilful painting, paper made excellent trunks, tobacco-bags, cigar-cases, saddles, telescope-cases, the frames of microscopes; and we even saw and used excellent waterproof coats made of simple paper, which *did* keep out the rain, and were as supple as the best Mackintosh. The Japanese use neither silk nor cotton handkerchiefs, towels, or dusters; paper in their hands serves as an excellent substitute. It is soft, thin, tough, of a pale yellow colour, very plentiful and very cheap. The inner walls of many a Japanese apartment are formed of paper, being nothing more than painted screens: their windows are covered with a fine translucent description of the same material: it enters largely into the manufacture of nearly everything in a Japanese household; and we saw what seemed balls of twine, which were nothing but long shreds of tough paper rolled up. If a shopkeeper had a parcel to tie up, he would take a strip of paper, roll it quickly between his hands, and use it for the purpose, and it was quite as strong as the ordinary string used at home. In short, without paper all Japan would come to a deadlock; and, indeed, lest by the arbitrary exercise of his authority a tyrannical husband should stop his wife's paper, the sage Japanese mothers-in-law invariably stipulate, in the marriage-settlement, that the bride is to have allowed to her a certain quantity of paper!

The shops and streets of Yedo were the scene of much traffic, but there were here no great staples that we saw likely to yield anything like commercial exports to foreigners. Beyond the manufacturing industry of Yedo, the whole population seemed to us consumers rather than producers, and this is proved by the fact, that the freight of goods to Yedo from Nangasaki in native craft was eighty per cent greater than that of goods from Yedo to Nangasaki; showing that it is entirely an import trade that Yedo holds with the rest of Japan. Coal and copper were the only articles which gave any promise of export—the latter was especially abundant in every form but that of coin; and although there is a current belief amongst the Dutch that the copper-mines of Japan are only allowed to be worked to a certain extent, far short of what they would otherwise yield, the abundance of the metal, in all its varied forms of pure copper, brass, and bronze, was very striking. We saw it as a protection upon the piles of their bridges, on the bottoms of the native vessels, and the stems and gunwales of very ordinary boats; and the number of their brass guns was extraordinary. We saw brass or copper coverings to the roofs of their temples and shrines; their altars were loaded with copper, brass, and bronze castings; and the skill with which the Japanese work this metal, so as to imitate gold in all the many articles of taste and luxury exhibited in Yedo, called for our constant admiration. No doubt necessity had compelled the artisan to discover some mode of adorning lacker, porcelain, &c., with what

looked and wore quite as well as gold or silver; for we were told that the laws were most strictly enforced against the use of any precious metals for any such frivolous purposes. Still the art was a special one, and there is much to learn, we think, on this head, from Yedo or from Miako, from which all the best articles of taste were reputed to come. Meantime, whilst our curiosity was not half satiated, and our love for Japan was hourly increasing, the British Ambassador and the Imperial Commissioners were making rapid work with the Treaty. We sighed when told there was no hitch which might delay our return to strong-smelling China and its unpoetical inhabitants, and hastened off to the ships our purchases of porcelain, embroidery, carved work, lacker-ware, and little dogs.

Among all the excitement and hurry (for our visit to Yedo only extended over fourteen days) we did not forget our ancient friend Will Adams. Through Mori-hama we tried to ascertain if anything was recorded of the old man amongst the Japanese. Mori-hama had been before interrogated upon the same point, and knew nothing of his history beyond what he had learned from us. It had been suggested to us that there was considerable alarm in Japan, lest, in resuming intercourse with Europeans, claims should be put in by Jesuits or other religious communities for any of their ancient possessions in the country; and that such fears, although it is to be hoped they are perfectly without foundation, would best explain why, for the present at least, no assistance would be given in the

direction our inquiries tended. Unsuccessful, therefore, as we were then, there can be but little doubt that in a country where the arts of writing, reading, and drawing have been so long perfected, we shall, at some future day, find some information to add to the scanty but interesting particulars we now possess of the English sailor who lived so long about the Court of Yedo, and who founded the commerce of Holland and that of Great Britain with Japan.

It may perhaps interest the reader to epitomise his history from the point at which we left it :—

The Erasmus was laid up, probably sunk, near Yedo, and the crew, as well as the Englishman, were, at the end of two years (1602 or 1603), positively told that they must be content to remain in Japan for life. The Dutch sailors dispersed themselves over the island, and except that they continued to receive a royal allowance of two pounds of rice *per diem*, and twelve gold *kobangs* a-year, equal to about £10, we hear no more of them. But the captain, in 1605 or 1606, received permission to go in a native vessel to the Straits of Malacca, and he was killed in the following year on board the Dutch fleet, in an action with the Portuguese, before he could, as Adams hoped, convey information to England of his existence in Cipango.

Will Adams was refused leave to quit Yedo, but treated with great consideration. He built ships for the emperor. The first was of eighty tons, and pleased the Japanese ruler so much that he was advanced to the rank of an imperial tutor, "being," says Will

Adams, "in such grace and favour, by reason I taught him some points of geometry and the mathematics, with other things, that what I said could not be contradicted. At the which, my former enemies—the Jesuits and Portugals—did greatly wonder, and entreated me to befriend them to the emperor in their business; and so by my means both Spaniards and Portugals have received friendship from the emperor, I recompensing their evil unto me with good." Adams, however, did not altogether become shipbuilder or tutor; for after having built a second vessel of one hundred and twenty tons burthen, he made a cruise to sea in her prior to 1609, going as far as Miako Bay with a Japanese crew.

In that year two circumstances occurred which held out a prospect of release to the poor fellow from his imprisonment, for such it appears to have been to him, wrapt up as he was in love for his wife and children in England. A Spanish galleon, the San Francisco, returning from Manilla to Acapulco in Mexico, and having on board the governor of the Philippines, was cast away upon the coast of Japan; and of the crew, one hundred and sixty souls perished. The remainder, including the governor, were very kindly treated. The larger of the two vessels built by Adams was given to them by the Japanese emperor, with every means for proceeding upon their voyage; and at a favourable season, in 1610, they did so—returning, it appears, to Manilla. Poor Will Adams! we can see him standing on the shore watching the lessening sail that was car-

rying these strangers back to their home—a home he was forbidden to return to. In that same year which saw the San Francisco wrecked upon the one shore of Japan, there arrived upon the opposite side two privateers from Holland in quest of the Carrack of Portugal, which yearly ran from Macao to Japan. They missed their prize; so they consoled themselves by making arrangements for a future trade at Firando. The Dutch commanders travelled to the court, and there, thanks to the aid and influence of Will Adams, permission was accorded them to come yearly with certain commodities for trade. The disappointment felt by Adams at not being allowed to return with his friends the Dutchmen, must have been softened by the belief that if they returned safely to Holland, his countrymen would surely follow their footsteps, before long, to Japan. The year 1610 came and passed, and his heart must have been heavy, for hope of getting information to England through the Portugals he seems justly to have had none. In 1611 he sits down to write that remarkable letter given by Master Purchas, bearing date 22d October 1611. In this letter he speaks of the kindness and generosity of the emperor, who had given him a living "like unto a lordship in England, with eighty or ninety husbandmen who are as my servants and slaves;" he describes the people his fortune had thrown him amongst "as good of nature, courteous above measure, and valiant in war," and adds, "I think no land better governed in the world by civil policy." He urges his countrymen to trade thither,

and ends with the plaint nearest his poor lone heart, that he hopes by some means or other he shall hear of his wife and dear children. "Patiently," he says, "I wait the good-will and pleasure of God Almighty, desiring all those to whom this letter may come, to use means to acquaint my good friends with it, and so my wife and children may hear of me; by which means there may be hope that I may see them before my death—the which the Lord grant, to His glory and my great comfort. Amen."

God, it is to be hoped, gave the poor fellow some solace and consolation; for in the month of April of this very year, 1611, his countrymen sailed from England for Japan. We know nothing of how 1612 passed with Adams, but on June 11, 1613, the good ship Clove anchored in Firando, and Captain Saris then learned that Adams, or Auge, as he was called, was living at Yedo. He was immediately sent for, and on the 29th July 1613 arrived in Firando. He had suffered long, and we will hope that Saris and his countrymen gave him all the comfort and the information of his home that he so earnestly longed for. At any rate, from this time forth he seems to have resigned himself to live and die in Japan; for after returning to Yedo with Saris, and assisting to secure the most liberal terms of trade and intercourse, he appears to have entered the employ of the Honourable East India Company as an interpreter in the factory at Firando, under charge of a Mr Richard Cookes. In the receipt of a good salary, the old sailor served his countrymen

until his death, which probably happened in or about 1619. After his death, and after sustaining a loss in trade for some years, the English factory at Firando was voluntarily abandoned.

By the 24th August all difficulties connected with the final signature of the Treaty were removed, and as if more firmly to cement the renewal of the old alliance between these two powerful island empires of the East and West, the Japanese Government consented, for the first time in the history of Japan, to fire on that occasion a royal salute of twenty-one guns, which we, of course, undertook to return.

The daily conferences which had taken place between the high contracting parties had been always held in the British Embassy, when an immense deal of bowing, prostration, and suchlike acts of Japanese politeness, were undergone by our indefatigable friend the Lieutenant-Governor and his myrmidons. The Japanese Commissioners usually arrived about one o'clock in the afternoon, lunched with the Embassy, and then proceeded to business. At first they desired to introduce to the conferences the usual following of reporters and spies; but a polite firmness on the part of Lord Elgin brought them to reduce it to one secretary and their loyal interpreter, Mori-hama. Lord Elgin, we heard, pointed out to them, that even when thus diminished in numbers, they were in the proportion of five to one, and that, under such circumstances, Japanese interests need not suffer—to which the Commissioners replied,

that the appointment of so many Commissioners was the highest compliment that could be paid to the well-known ability of his Lordship, and that they desired to weigh justly and fairly all his propositions, so far as their humble abilities would enable them. It is but just to add that Lord Elgin made no secret of the reasonable and impartial spirit with which all the negotiations were carried on by them; and that he never had a more agreeable task than that of conferring with these Japanese gentlemen upon measures which would be mutually beneficial to both countries. All they sought for was a sound reason for any privilege, and proof that it was not likely to be injurious to Japan: in some cases they acknowledged that such and such a demand ought to be conceded—that there was no reason against doing so but ancient prejudice; and then they asked for time to enable their rulers and people to accommodate themselves to the new order of things. "Give us three or four years," they said; "by that time we shall be ready." This will explain those clauses in the Treaty, in which specific periods are given for certain concessions.

The Japanese admiral, the *ex* or duplicate Governor of Nangasaki, and the third senior Commissioner, Fghono-Kami, were men of very superior ability and attainment. The latter especially was most industrious and curious as to all that related to England or America; his note-book was always in hand, recording the name of everything he saw or heard of—occasionally he would sketch articles, ascertaining their dimensions

or the mode of their manufacture; and his observations upon their defects or merits were always intelligent. He was a wit likewise; and when any hitch occurred, whether in the conferences or elsewhere, he would rescue all parties from the dilemma by saying something which resulted in a hearty laugh. Morihama the linguist was a host in himself; and from the specimen the Commissioners afforded of the diplomatic skill of the servants of the Taikoon, there was no doubt that many would be found qualified to represent Japan at our own court, or elsewhere in Europe. Indeed we heard the wish expressed, in more than one quarter, to visit Europe and the United States.

On the 25th August, Lord Elgin invited all the Commissioners to dinner, and they came an hour before time, bringing a Japanese conjuror to enable his Excellency to judge of their skill in tricks of legerdemain. An impromptu theatre was soon formed of an apartment, one side of which opened out upon the temple garden; chairs and benches were ranged on the well-kept lawn, and the Ambassador, Commissioners, the suite, and a large body of officers, formed the audience. The conjuror was a gentlemanly-looking venerable man, clad in ample silk robes. He had as an assistant a wretch who tapped incessantly upon a small drum, and by his remarks, unintelligible of course to ourselves, he served to amuse the Japanese who crowded behind us. The old man performed many tricks of legerdemain, in a manner that equalled anything we had ever before seen; but when he

proceeded to show the far-famed butterfly trick, all were fairly wonder-stricken. Our Japanese Merlin was seated cross-legged about ten yards from us, upon the raised platform of the floor of the apartment; behind him was a gold-coloured screen, with a painting of the peak of Fusi-hama, in blue and white upon its glittering ground. He threw up the sleeves of his dress, and showed a piece of some tissue paper which he held in his hand. It was about six inches square, and by dexterous and delicate manipulation, he formed it into a very good imitation of a butterfly, the wings being extended, and at the most each was one inch across. Holding the butterfly out in the palm of his hand, to show what it was, he placed two candles, which were beside him, in such a position as to allow him to wave a fan rapidly without affecting the flame, and then, by a gentle motion of this fan over the paper insect, he proceeded to set it in motion. A counter-draught of air from some quarter interfered with his efforts, and made the butterfly truant to his will, and the screen had to be moved a little to remedy this. He then threw the paper butterfly up in the air, and gradually it seemed to acquire life from the action of his fan—now wheeling and dipping towards it, now tripping along its edge, then hovering over it, as we may see a butterfly do over a flower on a fine summer's day, then in wantonness wheeling away, and again returning to alight, the wings quivering with nervous restlessness! One could have sworn it was a live creature. Now it flew off to the light, and then the

conjuror recalled it, and presently supplied a mate in the shape of another butterfly, and together they rose and played about the old man's fan, varying their attentions between flirting with one another and fluttering along the edge of the fan. We repeatedly saw one on each side of it as he held it nearly vertically, and gave the fan a short quick motion; then one butterfly would pass over to the other, both would wheel away as if in play, and again return. A plant with some flowers stood in a pot near at hand; by gentle movements of the fan the pretty little creatures were led up to it, and then, their delight! how they played about the leaves, sipped the flowers, kissed each other, and whisked off again with all the airs and graces of real butterflies! The audience was in ecstasies, and young and old clapped their hands with delight. The exhibition ended, when the old man advanced to the front of his stage, within arm's length of us all, accompanied by his magic butterflies, that even in the open air continued to play round the magician and his fan! As a feat of legerdemain, it was by far the most beautiful trick we had ever heard of, and one that must require an immense amount of practice.

The Commissioners declined to send for any gladiators to exhibit the brutal prowess which so astonished and shocked our Transatlantic cousins; and it appeared from what Mori-hama let fall, that the severe strictures in the American history of Perry's Expedition had made the government of Yedo decide that Europeans should witness no more of them. The two facts, that

the Japanese know what foreigners have said about them, and that they are very sensitive under criticism, are well worthy of note, and should be kindly remembered through the length and breadth of Christendom.

From the conjuror's theatre we went to dinner, and the Commissioners seemed heartily to enjoy it; using their knives, forks, and spoons with a skill that showed they were ready mimics. They seemed to give the preference to ham amongst the eatables, and champagne amongst the wines, and all the pastry, sweets, and dried fruits, were heartily approved of. They laughed, until they almost cried, at the wild custom of drinking toasts and hurraing for the benefit of the pledged person's health. The junior Commissioners came out very strong at this stage of the proceedings. "Her Majesty the Queen, with three times three," was much to the taste of worthy Suda-hanzabro; and when, after an appropriate speech from his Excellency, as much was done for "His Imperial Majesty the Tai-koon," he was perfectly electrified, and joined in the Hip! hip! hurrah! as loudly as any of the deep-chested Britons. When the party broke up, the Ambassador appointed an early hour on the following forenoon for the final transaction of business, after which the embarkation of the Embassy was to take place, the Commissioners accompanying Lord Elgin afloat to receive from Captain Barker the yacht intended for the Emperor.

We must not omit to mention that, according to Japanese custom, presents had been made to the members of the Embassy, and the senior officers of the

squadron. Lord Elgin received a very handsome ornament for a table in the shape of a brace of birds beautifully cast in white metal, and divers pieces of silk. The other members of the suite had five, and the naval commanders had each three, pieces of a peculiar silk made at an imperial factory. The officers and men who had been sent out in charge of the yacht were especially honoured, and Lieutenant Ward received as imperial gifts a cabinet of lacker ware, and a porcelain dish ornamented with paintings in lacker which were unique. The Commissioners were most careful to point out that nothing we received was to be considered as intended in any way as a return for the "magnificent present" of the yacht—such was their expression; that would be, they said, duly acknowledged by his Imperial Majesty; but we were requested to accept these trifles as proofs of esteem for men who had come so far upon a friendly mission. Lord Elgin wished, before leaving, to make in his turn some presents to the many officials who had been so attentive, and as British diplomatists and men-of-war are not supplied with many articles very suitable for such a purpose, it was difficult to supply the need. Happily our paymaster had plenty of naval blue cloth, flannel, and blankets in store, and these articles, if not very ornamental, were useful, and might serve to give some idea of our common manufactures. To these were added soap and chocolate, and some new Enfield muskets, and carbines,—the whole forming a medley which, judging by the delight of the recipients, was much approved.

The pride of those presented with arms was beyond all bounds, and even Mori-hama, whose mission one would have supposed to be a peaceful one, grasped the artilleryman's carbine and its long sword-bayonet as if military honours were the especial object of his existence. One could not help smiling at this child-like love for arms—and with all disposition to approve of everything Japanese, certainly a man with his dress straw sandals and clean-shaved poll, with a long ugly musket in his hand and a British grenadier's belt and pouch over his shoulders, did not cut a martial or imposing figure. This love of guns and swords is extraordinary, for, with the exception of petty rebellion, it is now some centuries since there was any demand upon the military spirit of Japan; and the people and chiefs are anything but a fierce or blood-thirsty race: yet to carry arms is the ambition of every Japanese, and the right to wear two swords is a stamp of gentility indicating that the person so distinguished is above the trading class. Each of the sixty great princes, the barons of the Japanese empire, spends the major portion of his revenue in guns, powder, and arms, and each of them has an enormous body of idle serfs, who at his bidding become soldiers. Sharp swords, and bows and arrows, constitute as yet the principal armament of these hosts; but every effort is being made to make and obtain muskets or rifles, and to drill the natives in the European style. Throughout the period of our stay in Yedo, drilling of men was constantly going on under the direction of Japanese officers, instructed

by the Dutch at Nangasaki, and there was an eternal target-practice with muskets in more than one of the enclosed batteries.

We awoke early, and sighed heavily, upon the morning of the 26th August, for the day of our departure from Japan had arrived. We have often vowed never again to like one particular spot upon this bright earth of ours more than another—never again to form a friendship upon the shore, but to confine all our likes and dislikes to salt water and sailors. Yet, somehow or other, we are ever departing from such resolutions, and what we felt at leaving Japan, it has been our lot to experience on saying good-by (often for ever) to many pleasant places, and many kind friends, in regions sometimes as remote, and almost as little visited, as Japan. Our parting tenderness extended even to the gold-fish, that *last* morning as we plunged in amongst them, in the mimic pond close to our sleeping-apartments; and we could not find in our heart to growl at the poor priest who came down to take notes of the English method of using soap and towel. Our seamen had come up to the Embassy to assist in forwarding down the luggage to the boats. Jack was mightily amused with Johnny, as he called the Japanese, and the feeling was mutual, judging from the hearty laughter of the porters, priests, and policeman at the pantomime by which our men strove to make their wants understood. On one occasion, turning a corner rather abruptly, we found a jolly fore-topman explaining by signs that he wanted something to pour

down his throat that would make him dance, whereupon he cut a double shuffle, and reeled about the yard. Johnny perfectly understood, and repeated the performance. Jack's broad face beamed with delight. "Yes, that's it, grog! Come, bear a hand, my fine fellow," he exclaimed; and in anticipation of his want being quickly supplied, he expressed in strongest vernacular his high approval of the Johnnies in general. Happily for the Johnnies, we arrived in time to stay further proceedings; and sending for Yenoske the interpreter, we made him explain that Jack upon water, or Jack upon tea, was as harmless as a baby; but that Jack in a state of grog was simply an infuriated Briton, an animal likely to mar the domestic happiness of all within the temple enclosure, and very certain to break the peace. "Ah," said Yenoske—"ah! all the same as drunken Dutch sailor." Worse, we asserted, than fifty Dutchmen. "All the same one tiger!" suggested Yenoske, looking very serious. We told him that tigers the worse for liquor could not be more troublesome. Whereupon Yenoske explained to his countrymen the effects of grog upon our men in such strong terms, that neither for love nor money could they get anything stronger than tea, and we were happy, if Jack was not.

From daybreak, stout-limbed porters, with a mere modicum of clothing, and a few of them very handsomely tattooed, were employed staggering along under cases of curiosities and manufactures, which had left many a purse perfectly empty; and neat-looking cages,

containing each one or more little dogs, might be seen going seaward under especial convoy. Of these, the sweetest pets—though the first-lieutenant did not think so—that ever graced a drawing-room or played at a lady's feet, no less than thirteen eventually mustered on board the Furious, the property of the "Ambassadors," as our men would insist upon styling the whole of Lord Elgin's suite. These small Japanese spaniels are said to be of the King Charles' breed, now so rare in England, and the fresh importation of stock ought to be a source of no small delight to those fair spinsters who delight in pretty pets and little dogs. Then of course some of us had to hurry away down an adjoining street to make a purchase, forgotten until the last moment, when the guide was detected instructing the shopman to ask thrice the proper price.

Our last dollar spent, we felt we could then do no more to prove our regard for Japan, and said a kind good-by to all our acquaintances in the temple, presenting the worthy dignitary who was at its head with our last drop of eau-de-cologne, which he drank to our happy meeting at some future day. The native police attached to the Embassy looked *triste* at our departure; doubtless they had good cause, for we opine that they had enjoyed many an extra feed of fish and rice, many a grateful pipe of fragrant tobacco, pleasant snoozes in shady corners, and many jolly evenings over bottles of good sakee, since they assumed the high office of watching the strangers who had so unceremoniously thrust themselves into the good city

of Yedo. To be sure, their responsibility was great, for had the Ambassador and his followers insisted upon latch-keys, and taken to wringing off knockers, larking about the streets, or disturbing the peace in any way, these unfortunates, including even the Lieutenant-Governor and Yenoske, would have been soundly bambooed until we behaved better. Fortunately for our guardians, who were to be rewarded in proportion to our virtues, we were flatteringly assured through Yenoske that the British Embassy far surpassed Russians, Dutch, and Americans. We fear that in Japan they have learned to flatter!

After breakfast, horses were brought for those who wished to be early on board, and as we passed through the temple gate, an imperial procession, bearing a royal feast to Lord Elgin, was met. Never was a more solemn affair; every man in it looked as if the business of carrying royal dishes was a serious matter. Officers and men were clad much alike, in light silks or cottons, of a black and white striped pattern, and the royal servants all had a particular crest upon each arm, and on the front and back of their dress. It was almost a fac-simile of the Irish shamrock or trefoil. We had before remarked that the retainers of the different princes or chiefs bore the particular crest or arms of their master, so that heraldry is evidently a Japanese institution. All the viands were carefully boxed up in large black lacker-ward cases, and were sent cooked from the royal kitchen. Those that partook of the feast described the dishes as being very

palatable. As in China, nearly everything was stewed, and served up in small fragments, requiring only chop-stick and spoon, and very little exercise of the teeth. Fish and vegetables formed the basis of all the numerous *entrées*, and it would be quite worth Miss Acton's while to visit Yedo to learn how many changes may be rung with a stewpan upon those two articles alone. Instead of sitting at the table to feed, the royal attendants made our stiff-jointed countrymen squat upon mats according to the custom of the country, an exception being made in favour of the Ambassador. Japanned tables, each about the size of our ordinary tea-trays, standing on legs nine inches high, were placed between every two Englishmen, these tables being loaded with smoking hot dishes, one of which was always delicious rice. Everything was served upon lacker-ware,—dishes, plates, tumblers, and spoons being all of that material, either red or black, with a slight ornamental work in imitation gold or silver. The attendance was perfect, and so was the extreme cleanliness with which everything was served. Meantime we went to the imperial dockyard to embark, under the imposing escort of a couple of mounted officers, and preceded by two policemen dressed in their official costume, with quite as many colours in it as Joseph's could have had. The official in charge of the yard was the Japanese whom we have before mentioned as speaking English with a strong American negro accent. He had asserted that he learnt English in a college in Yedo, from native instructors educated

at Nangasaki. We asked Mori-hama about him one day when the Imperial Commissioners were present, and he repeated to them what we had been told. They laughed, and contradicted the statement, adding that our friend had learnt English in California! He had doubtless been one of those many Japanese seamen who have in former days been blown to sea in a native coaster, picked up by some American whaler, carried to California, and there had dwelt until the opening of his country to European intercourse enabled him to return, through American intercession, without forfeiting his life, according to the old laws of Japan. When we therefore met the worthy, we hinted that his fiction of an American or English college in Yedo would not do, for that we knew, from pretty good authority, that he had acquired his knowledge of English in the United States. Totally unabashed, however, he vowed he had never been out of Japan; and it was evident that, as yet, it was not fashionable, or *comme il faut*, in Japanese society, to own that one had been beyond its limits, vagabondising about the great world. He had learnt a very great deal, with a large proportion of evil, and truth was not in the unfortunate man. He had a knowledge of sailoring and carpentering, but boasted that he was well versed in navigation and astronomy. A sextant happened to be at hand, and he was asked if he could observe the altitude of heavenly bodies with it. "Oh yes! he could even take a lunar!" He was asked to measure a very simple angle. It must be owned that his assurance

was wonderful, for he took up the instrument and proceeded to work with it upside down! "You are out of practice, my friend," said we. "Yes," was the rejoinder; "I hab'n done him for so long, that I forget how to *fix* him." Although he could not "fix" a sextant, he was up in some ordinary practical seamanship, and could build a boat upon European principles. He pointed to several very nice decked boats, schooner-rigged, which were in the bay, and said they had been constructed under his supervision, and that he had taught the crews to work them, and that, it was evident, they did very cleverly. To us it seemed melancholy that the only Japanese we had met whom it was impossible to like, should have been one who, more than any of his countrymen, had lived amongst Christians. Intercourse with foreigners, as in the case of many Asiatics it has been our fortune to meet, seemed to have destroyed the national characteristics, without substituting anything good in their place. The influence such men must have in prejudicing an inquisitive government like that of Yedo for or against European or American intercourse, must naturally be very great; and it was unfortunate that they should have so indifferent a specimen of the results of allowing Japanese to leave their own country.

The 26th August being the birthday of his Royal Highness the Prince-Consort, we, as loyal subjects, had not omitted to dress our ships with flags to do honour to the occasion; and the roar of our salutes at noon pealed through Yedo just as the Commissioners

and Ambassador were affixing their signatures to the Treaty. Great was the excitement occasioned amongst the population by the ships being so figged out, the salutes, and the fact that the Ambassador was going to embark officially, accompanied by the Commissioners, to hand over to them the beautiful yacht Emperor; and the city and bay became alive with Japanese, anxious to view and share in the gaiety. The day was bright and beautiful—Queen's weather again—and it was indeed a general holiday. Native craft, filled with pleasure-seekers, dotted the sparkling waters of the beautiful bay; all the government boats were out, their stern-sheets loaded with well-dressed personages, who, we had been told, were probably high officers, enjoying the privilege of seeing us "*niebon*," or incognito. The officers belonging to one of the Japanese men-of-war visited us in a body, and soon spread themselves over the entire ship, inspecting and making notes of everything with praiseworthy industry. One was soon aloft on the yards and masts, examining the fittings, measuring the size of ropes and blocks. Going into a cabin in which hung the portraits of those two naval worthies, Admiral Sir John Franklin and Sir John Barrow, we found a group of Japanese formed round them. No sooner was it explained through Yenoske who they were, than a native officer made careful notes of their names, and then cleverly sketched in his book an outline of their features. Winterhalter's large portrait of her Majesty they were in ecstasies with; and seeing us take off our caps on turning towards it, the good fellows immediately made likewise their respect-

ful obeisance to the likeness of our sovereign. They asked a host of intelligent questions about her dominions, fleets, and armies. It was evident that the higher officials were pretty well posted up in the general state of Europe. For instance, to one group we showed a portrait of that much-loved admiral, Lord Lyons, and spoke of Sebastopol. The Japanese immediately said, "that was a great city you took from Russia;" and subsequently they asked if we had been at the taking of Canton? But invariably, when speaking of affairs out of Japan, they looked nervous, and, beyond a passing remark, flew off from the subject as if it was interdicted. Even Mr Hewskin, who spoke Dutch, a language very generally known amongst the officials, could never get them to converse at their ease upon such topics.

There was in the numerous boats around the ships a fair sprinkling of women or ladies, as well as many children. They all seemed of a highly respectable class, and none of the graceful nymphs of the tea or peach gardens came afloat to increase the damage they had already done to the hearts of our susceptible blue-jackets. We believe this was in consequence of an injunction of the police, under orders from some higher quarter — possibly the Commissioners thought that, amongst other foreign fancies, it might enter the head of the English to carry off specimens of the pretty little pets in the tea-gardens, insisting upon our right to purchase them under the head of "unenumerated articles" in the new tariff. Anyhow, black teeth pre-

vailed upon this occasion amongst the ladies, who in other respects were a charming addition to the scene of animation and pleasure. About three o'clock the barge of H.M.S. Furious, bearing the British Ambassador and suite, was seen leaving the shore, and at the same time a native boat with the Commissioners, in full costume, proceeded towards the yacht. The dress of these latter gentlemen was more than ordinarily handsome, especially that of the Lord High Admiral. Captain Barker, the senior naval officer, as the deputy of the naval Commander-in-Chief, received the Commissioners and the Earl of Elgin on board the yacht, and in a short speech expressed his sense of the honour conferred upon himself in being deputed to hand over to the Commissioners this token of goodwill and friendship: the Commissioners replied in equally warm terms, and then the English ensigns were hauled down from the Emperor's mastheads and ensign staff, and the Japanese colours were substituted. This act being formally carried out, the Japanese forts fronting the city saluted with a royal salute of twenty-one guns; and uncommonly well they did it too. We returned it, and assuredly all will join in the prayer that the friendship thus saluted may be lasting between us, and beneficial to the good people of Japan. Not the least interesting part of this day's doings was the moving and working of the Emperor, directly she became Japanese, under the management of a native captain, engineer, and crew. Her machinery was of the most recent construction, horizontal cylinders, trunk engines,

and other peculiarities; yet they mastered all these, under the English officers, after a week's instruction; having, of course, previously understood an ordinary old-fashioned engine. After passing round the squadron, she disembarked all her English visitors, and we had the pleasure of seeing the yacht proceed towards the city, to land the Imperial Commissioners.

At first the Japanese suggested that they should call the yacht the London, out of compliment to our capital, which alone, they believed, could compare with their own; but for some reason or other, they eventually named her the Dragon, and, as such, H.I.M.Y. Dragon will doubtless be of great use as a pleasure-boat to all but the imprisoned monarch for whom it was intended. A few weeks after our visit, when the ambassador of France, Baron Gros, made his appearance in the Bay of Yedo, he found the Dragon steaming about, and we heard that his excellency made more than one trip in her, under the safe charge of a Japanese captain and engineers.

It was late before all our farewells to our Yedo friends were over—their final act was to bring off some five-and-twenty robes of honour as presents from the Emperor to Lord Elgin. They were wonderful articles, of the richest silk, stamped or dyed with the loudest patterns—sunflowers and pumpkins prevailing. In cut and shape the robes resembled dressing-gowns, though much larger, and they were quilted with raw silk to a thickness of at least four inches! The Councillors of State, seated round the Tai-koon in such robes

at an official levee, must be as gorgeous a sight as a tulip-bed. As the officers deputed to present these dresses on board the Furious begged to be allowed to arrange the royal presents according to their custom, the quarter-deck soon presented an appearance which would have tried the nerves of the oldest and most experienced officer in the British navy, so much more did it resemble Swan and Edgar's than any place under a pendant.

Two hours before daybreak on the 27th August we weighed and proceeded to sea, not without a hope and prayer that in our wanderings we might yet one day revisit Yedo. Our stay there had been a bright oasis in the desert-like monotony of our existence in China, and we hailed with joy, on behalf of our professional brethren employed in protecting commerce in the far East, the prospect of an occasional visit to the interesting and healthy islands of Japan. The Peak of Fusi-hama shone far above the ranges of mountains in the interior a short half-hour, and we bid the "peerless one" a long farewell.

Calm and majestic as Fusi-hama looks from the sea, the "matchless one" was born of volcanic action. If Japanese history tells true, the birth of the young lady —for she is a mere infant in age amongst mountains— was attended with a fearful convulsion of the whole island of Nīpon, and in the self-same night, in the 285 B.C., that the great cone of Fusi-hama rose from the plain, not far from it was formed the great lake of Mitsu—as if the crust of the earth had sunk down in

one spot, and bubbled up in another. Fusi-hama was an active volcano for many centuries. The last great eruption occurred on the 23d day of the 11th moon 1707, when, with two violent shocks of earthquake, the crest of the mountain opened, vomited flames, and hurled cinders for many leagues; and on the 25th and 26th, huge masses of rock and hot sand were projected over the adjoining country; and even in Yedo, fifty miles distant, ashes fell to a thickness of several inches.

Fusi-hama has, it is to be hoped, grown less dangerous as she has grown older, for we were told that no volcanic fire existed now in the crater. But hot springs are numerous, and earthquakes, alas! sadly destructive in the island of Nīpon, and there seems reason to fear that the volcanic fires merely slumber, and are by no means extinct.

Our pleasant task draws to a close; we will not take our reader out into another gale of wind, in a paddle-wheel frigate; one such trial ought to be quite enough for any one. It blew so hard, and the wind was so villanously fair, that we could not even muster the shadow of an excuse for not pushing ahead for China, and, *mal gré, bon gré,* were forced down the east coast of the Japanese group at the exciting rate of eleven miles an hour, leaving all the wonders of the Suwo-nada Sea, its labyrinth of islands and commerce-laden waters, for some future day. We grieved to think of leaving Hioga, the new port within Kino Straits, un-

visited, as well as Ozaka and Miako, of which huge cities it is the seaport and outlet. We feel sure the reader will sympathise with us as, turning from Japan, we looked forward to the precious tossing about that was in store for us at sea, with unsavoury Shanghai at the end of our voyage!

THE END.

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